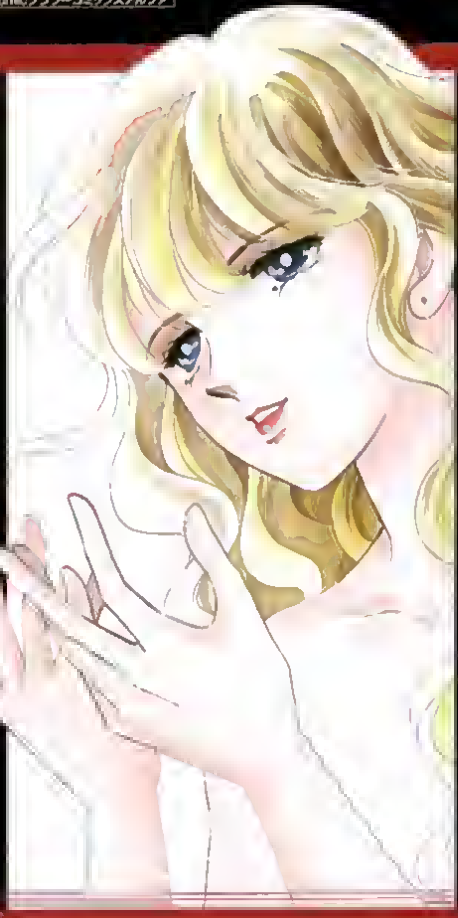
FLOWER COMICS α
Petit Comic フラワーコミックスアルファ

6

夢の雫、黄金の鳥籠



篠原千絵
Chie Shinohara Presents

夢の雫、黄金の鳥籠 6

＊プチコミック
フラワーコミックスα＊

篠原千絵

Chie Shinohara Presents

夢の雫、黄金の鳥籠 6

CHARACTERS

▼スレイマン▼
オスマントルコ帝国
第10代皇帝。
領土拡大の野心を持つ。

▲ヒュッレム▲
奴隷として売られるところを
イブラヒムに見いだされ
スレイマンの後宮に入る。

▼イブラヒム▼
スレイマンの側近で小姓頭。
マテウスという名の
ギリシャ商人の顔も持つ。

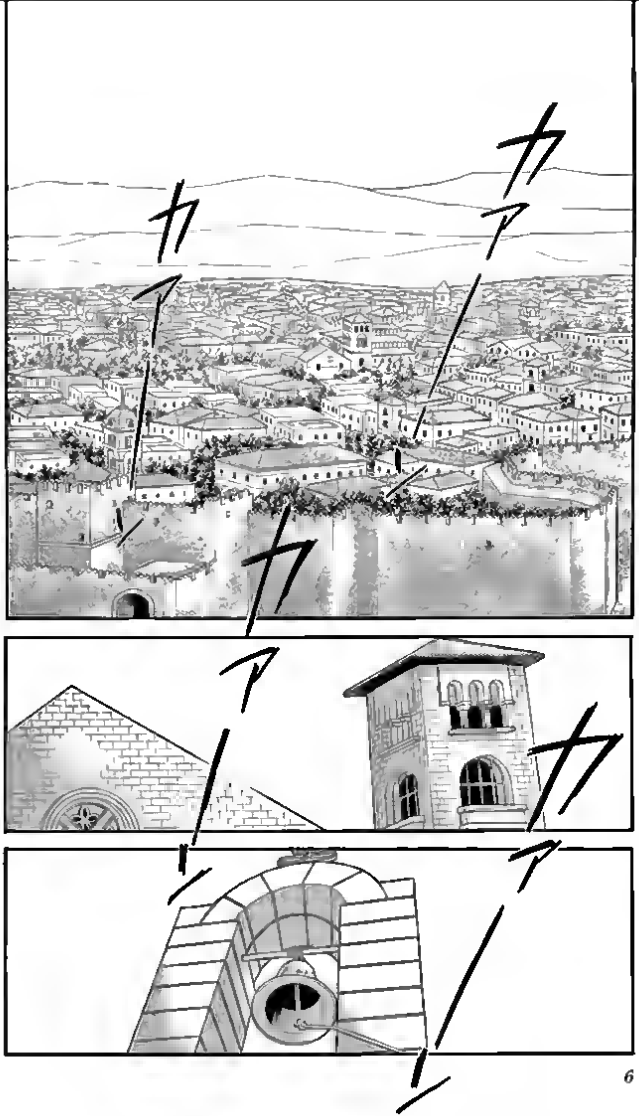
▲アルヴィーゼ・
グリッティ▲
ヴェネチアの商人。
イブラヒムの協力者。

▲ギュルバハル▲
スレイマンの第一夫人。
第一皇子・
ムスタファの母。

▲ハディージェ▲
スレイマンの妹。
アルヴィーゼと
相思相愛。

STORY

16 世紀初頭、サーシャは
ルテニアの寒村から攫われ、奴隷として売られるところを、
マテウスと名乗る男に買われ、彼の館へ連れていかれる。
マテウスを慕いながら、知性と教養を身につけていくサーシャ。
けれどマテウスはサーシャに、ヒュッレムという新しい名を与え、
オスマントルコ帝国皇帝・スレイマンへ献上する。
実はマテウスはイブラヒムと呼ばれる皇帝の側近だったのだ。
妾として後宮で暮らし始めたヒュッレムは
スレイマンの寵愛を受け側室となる。が、それは同時に
スレイマンの第一夫人・ギュルバハルとの確執の始まりでもあった。
そんな折、スレイマンの妹・ハディージェに頼まれ
イブラヒムの友人・アルヴィーゼとの密会の手助けをすることに。
それをきっかけにヒュッレムはハディージェと親密になる。
イブラヒムへのを想いを募らせながら、
なおもスレイマンの寵愛を受け続けたヒュッレムは
ギュルバハルに命を狙われ、絶体絶命の危機に。
それをイブラヒムが助けたことから、二人はついに結ばれる。
そんな中、スレイマンはロードス島への遠征を決める。
イブラヒムは、ヒュッレムをスレイマンから下賜されるため
生まれて初めて手柄を立てたいと望み戦地へと赴くが
直後、ヒュッレムの懐妊が明らかになる。
どちらの子かわからぬ妊娠に戸惑うヒュッレムだったが、
さらに命を狙われたことがきっかけで、子を産むことを決意。
一方、ロードス島では開戦の時が訪れようとしていた…

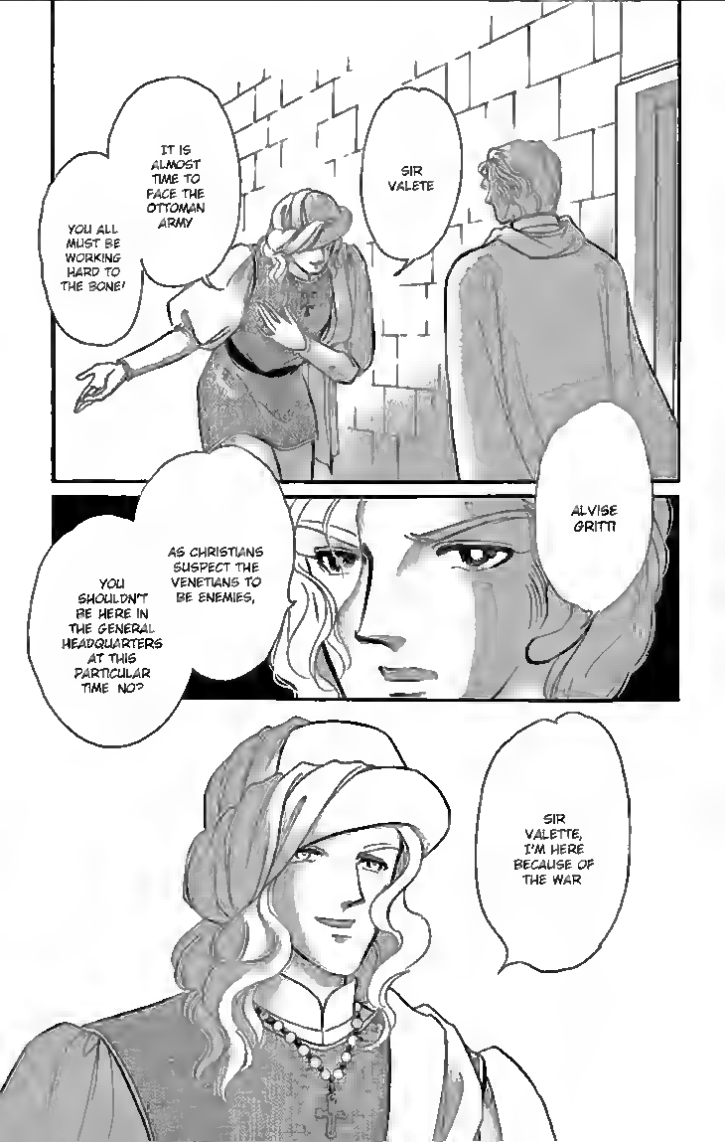


IT'S THE SIGNAL BELL!
THE OTTOMAN ARMY'S ATTACK HAS ALREADY STARTED
IT SEEMS LIKE THEIR STRENGTH IS COMPARABLE TO THE ARMY 40 YEARS AGO
BUT INCLUDING THE CITIZENS WE DON'T EVEN HAVE AT LEAST 10 000 PEOPLE
THE CITIZENS' MORALE ISN'T BAD!
YEAH! IF A CRISIS DOES OCCUR, WE CAN ALSO HELP OUT
IT'S OKAY! THE KNIGHTS HAVE ALWAYS PROTECTED US
UH-HUH!

I THINK EVERYONE ALREADY KNOWS THAT
OTTOMAN'S EMPEROR SULEIMAN HAS ORDERED US TO SURRENDER MANY TIMES
BUT OF COURSE, WE THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT JOHN, WILL NEVER DO SUCH NONSENSE!
EVEN THOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE MANY MEN,
WE HAVE THE NUMBER ONE CITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, WHICH IS AN IRON WALL. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE SUFFICIENT FOOD SUPPLIES.
PREPARE FOR SEIGE, EVERY MAN MUST PUT IN HIS VERY BEST!

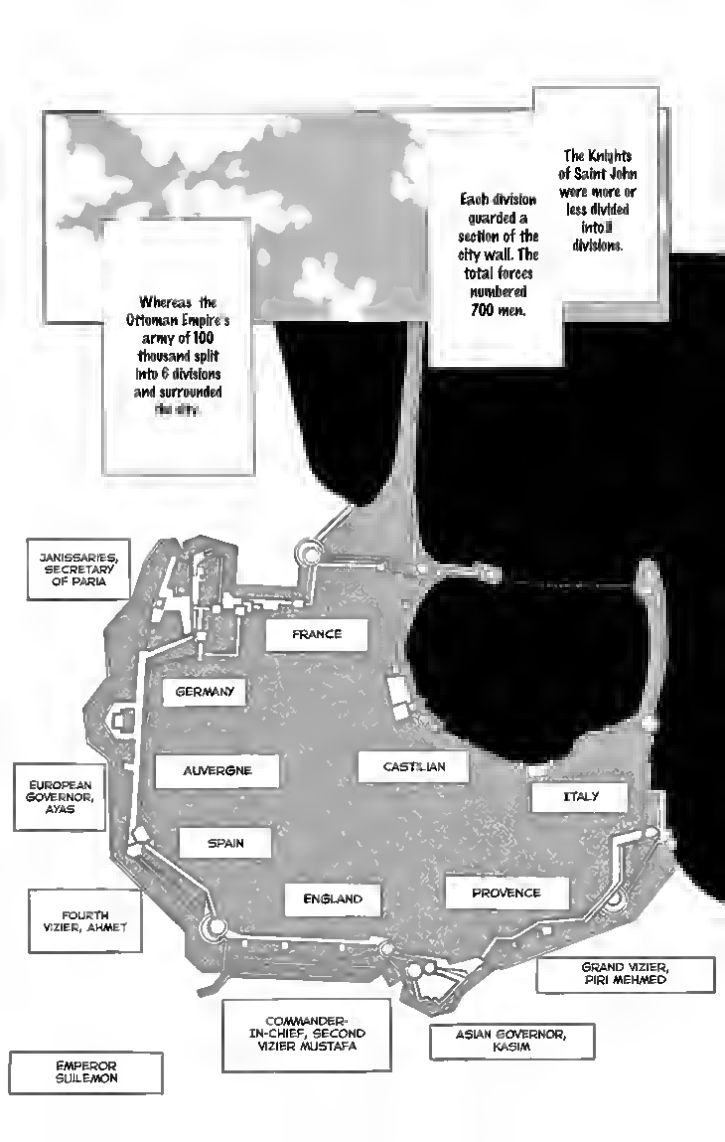
THERE IS A CHANCE OF THE SIEGE FAILING...
AND WE NOBLE BLUE BLOOD KNIGHTS SIMPLY CANNOT ACCEPT CARELESS JOBS
Parisot De Valette!
PARISOT!

PARISOT!
THUS,
YOUR AUVERGNE SQUAD IS STATIONED AT THE WEST WALL RIGHT?
IN ORDER FOR US TO BE READY FOR BATTLE AT ANY TIME, I AM GOING RECRUIT MORE MEMBERS
YES IT IS, GRAND MASTER L'ISLE-ADAM!
THOUGH IT MAY NOT FACE THE ENEMY'S PATH, IT IS STILL A CRUCIAL SPOT THAT REQUIRES THOROUGH PREPARATION!


SIR VALETE
IT IS ALMOST TIME TO FACE THE OTTOMAN ARMY
YOU ALL MUST BE WORKING HARD TO THE BONE!
ALVISE GRITTI
AS CHRISTIANS SUSPECT THE VENETIANS TO BE ENEMIES,
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE IN THE GENERAL HEADQUARTERS AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME NO?
SIR VALETTE, I'M HERE BECAUSE OF THE WAR

EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE DEALS WITH COUNTRIES ALL AROUND US, THE NOBLE KNIGHTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OUR FIRST PRIORITY
WE VENETIANS ARE MERCHANTS
I AM DELIVERING THE KNIGHTS' ORDER OF MATERIALS FOR THE SIEGE BATTLE

FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING TOO MUCH, GOODBYE!
BORN INTO A FAMOUS VENETIAN FAMILY, BUT YOU ARE VERY CLOSE TO PAGANISM BE CAREFUL OF A BAD END
THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT YOU WERE BORN IN ISTANBUL
THOUGH YOU ARE THE SON OF A CONCUBINE

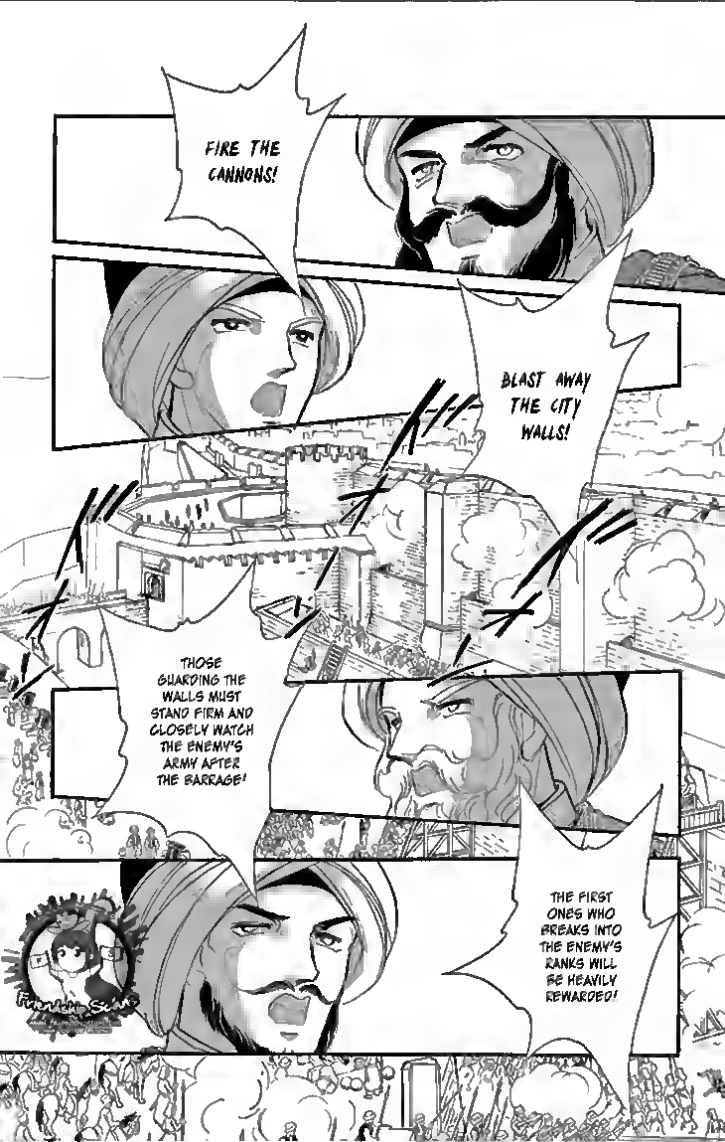

Whereas the Ottoman Empire's army of 100 thousand split into 6 divisions and surrounded the city.
Each division guarded a section of the city wall. The total forces numbered 700 men.
The Knights of Saint John were more or less divided into 8 divisions.
JANISSARIES, SECRETARY OF PARIA
FRANCE
GERMANY
AUVERGNE
CASTILIAN
ITALY
EUROPEAN GOVERNOR, AYAS
SPAIN
ENGLAND
PROVENCE
FOURTH VIZIER, AHMET
GRAND VIZIER, PIRI MEHMED
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, SECOND VIZIER MUSTAFA
ASIAN GOVERNOR, KASIM
EMPEROR SUILEMON

WE ALSO WANT TO FIGHT!
IT'S THE KNIGHTS!
YOU GUYS ARE THE STRONGEST!
DO YOUR BEST!

1552,
August 1st
Morning
IS EVERYONE PROPERLY WEARING BODY ARMOUR?
WE CAN'T LET THEM SAY THE DISPARITY IN STRENGTH IS NOT LARGE
LET ME SEE HOW THEY WILL FEND OFF MY NEW CANNONS

COMMANDER -IN-CHIEF MUSTAFA
BEGIN!
YES SIR!
ATTACK!!

HURRY UP AND REPAIR THE WALLS!
LEAVE IT TO US,
THE CITIZEN SELF-ORGANIZED WORKFORCE!
CONTINUE.
BOMBARD THE CITY FOR NOW
YES!


FIRE THE CANNONS!
BLAST AWAY THE CITY WALLS!
THOSE GUARDING THE WALLS MUST STAND FIRM AND CLOSELY WATCH THE ENEMY'S ARMY AFTER THE BARRAGE!
THE FIRST ONES WHO BREAKS INTO THE ENEMY'S RANKS WILL BE HEAVILY REWARDED!

ALI
NO MATTER WHAT, WE MUST OBTAIN THE GREATEST MILITARY ACHIEVEMENT IN THIS WAR!
THOUGH THE AUVERGNE ARMY THAT IS STANDING IN OUR WAY IS ONLY COMPOSED OF ELITES
WE NEED TO PRESENT THE SEVERED HEAD OF THEIR LEADER TO HIS MAJESTY
YES, GENERAL!

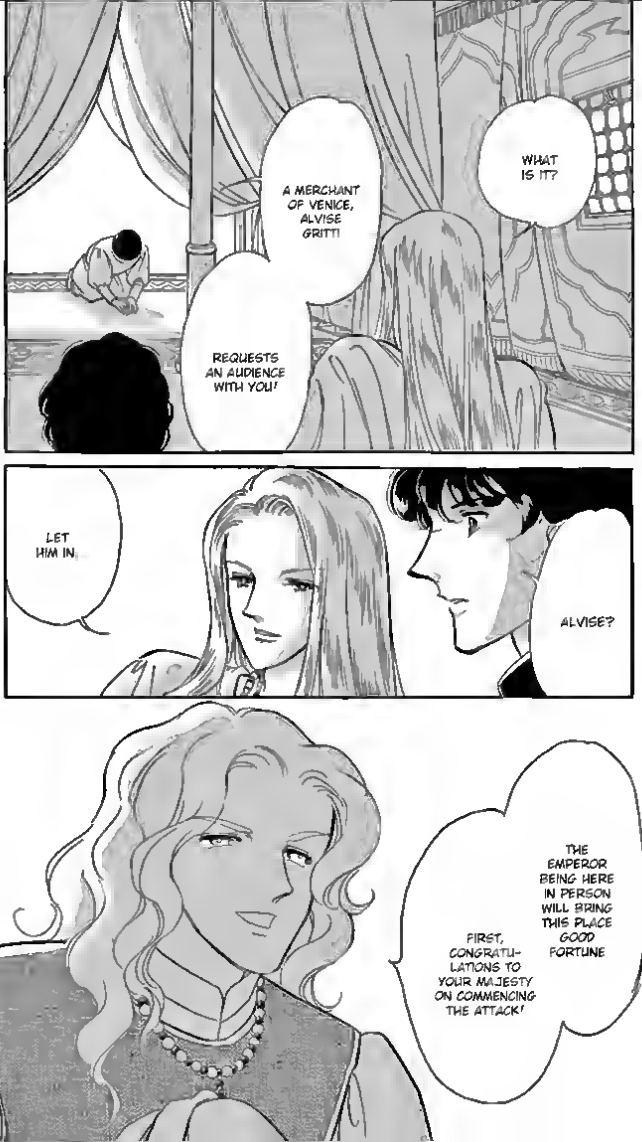
I HAVE SENT THEM THE SURRENDER BOOK MANY TIMES NOW
BUT NOT EVEN THE MOST ANCIENT GREETINGS GOT A RESPONSE
I HAVE DONE ALL THAT I CAN THE OTHER PARTY'S INTENTIONS ARE VERY CLEAR
EXACTLY!
THE CITY WILL INEVITABLY BE CAPTURED
HOPEFULLY WE CAN SEIZE THIS PLACE WITH A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF CASUALTIES
OH? INEVITABLY BE CAPTURED?
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
WHY DON'T YOU EXPLAIN IT TO ME, IBRAHIM?
DON'T BE AFRAID!

AS FOR THE POWERFUL GERMANY, THE PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC CHURCHES ARE CAUSING INTERNAL STRIFE YET AGAIN
EVERY COUNTRY IS BUSY WITH THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND CANNOT AFFORD TO SEND TROOPS FAR AWAY TO HELP OUT
MOREOVER, THE POPES IN OTHER CHRISTIAN COUNTRIES ARE FOCUSING ON MAINTAINING THEIR OWN POWER AND DO NOT DARE TO BE RASH
THUS THIS SIEGE CITY WITH NO OUTSIDE HELP WILL FALL. IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME
THEN, IF I MAY,
CHRISTIANITY'S POPE, THE BISHOP OF ROME, JUST GOT INAUGURATED

Forbidden Secrets
THEN,
DOES MY LORD ALSO INTEND TO RETREAT?
SO YOU THOUGHT OF IT LIKE THAT
NOT EVEN MY GRAND-FATHER THE GREAT CONQUEROR MEHMED II, COULD TAKE OVER THE CITY HE INSTEAD CHOSE TO RETREAT!

REGARDING THIS BATTLE'S TACTICS, YOU SHOULD ALSO THINK OF SOMETHING...
WELL, LET US SEE HOW THE BATTLE GOES.
ME?
BUT THE TACTICS ARE DECIDED BY THE VIZIERS
YOU SWORE LOYALTY TO ME...
WHEN I TELL YOU TO DO SOMETHING,
YOU WILL DO IT!

REPORT, YOUR MAJESTY!


WHAT IS IT?
A MERCHANT OF VENICE, ALVISE GRITTI
REQUESTS AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU!
LET HIM IN.
ALVISE?
FIRST, CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR MAJESTY ON COMMENCING THE ATTACK!
THE EMPEROR BEING HERE IN PERSON WILL BRING THIS PLACE GOOD FORTUNE

FOR WHAT REASON DID YOU COME HERE TODAY? DID YOU HAVE A BUSINESS TRANSACTION ON RHODES?
I REQUESTED AN AUDIENCE WITH YOUR MAJESTY
BECAUSE I HAVE SOME INFORMATION!
YOUR MAJESTY HAS INCREDIBLE INSIGHT! BUT THE KNIGHTS ARE NOT ABLE TO BUY MANY THINGS.
INFORMATION?
IS IT SOMETHING THAT I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN?
I HOPE YOU WILL BE VERY INTERESTED WITH IT
WOULD YOUR MAJESTY BE INTERESTED IN THE STATE OF AFFAIRS WITHIN THE CITY?

THEIR FOOD RESERVES CAN LAST ABOUT A YEAR.
THE KNIGHTS HAVE APPROXIMATELY 700 PEOPLE
ADDING THE MERCENARIES AND THE CITIZENS WHO ARE ABLE TO FIGHT, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 7000 SOLDIERS.
OTHER THAN THAT, THERE ARE NO OTHER SOLDIERS.
SO YOU'RE SAYING EVEN YOU VENETIANS WON'T HELP THEM?

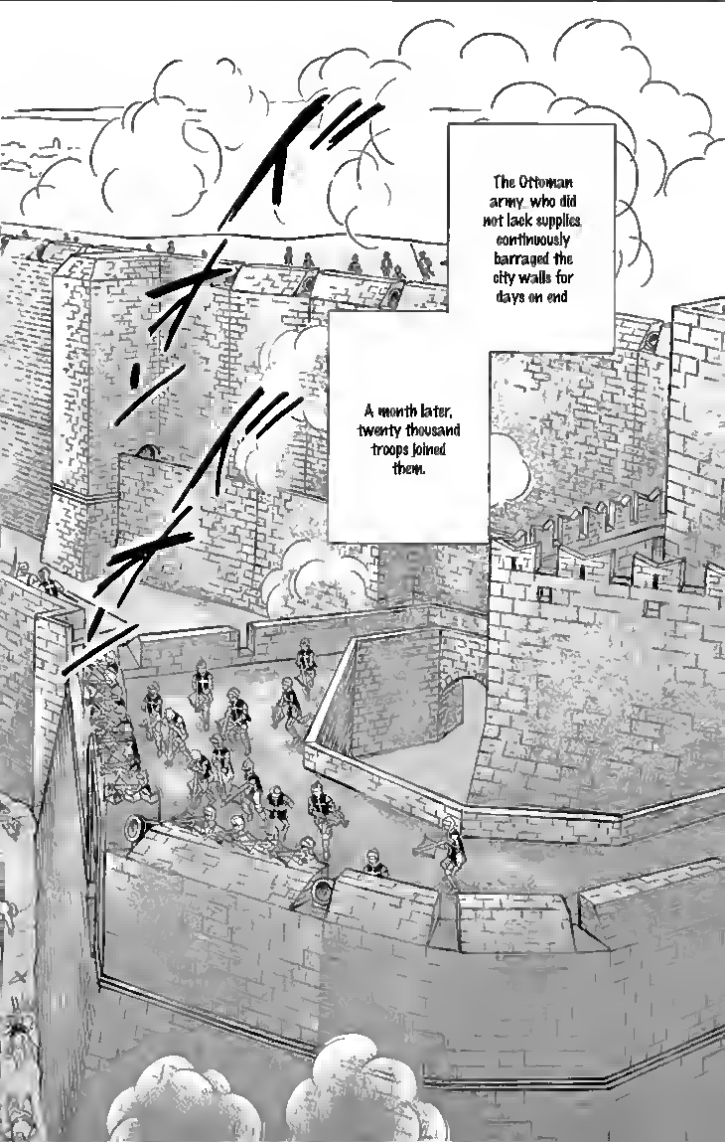
EXACTLY!
...IT DIDN'T SOUND TOO BAD
IF THERE IS ANY INFORMATION LIKE THAT IN THE FUTURE, COME AND LET US KNOW
YES YOUR MAJESTY! I WILL NOT HESITATE!

ALVISE!
IBRAHIM?

BY MY COUNTRY, YOU MEAN VENICE?
THAT'S WHY I AM WILLING TO DO ANYTHING!
BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME. COMPARED TO YOU, YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WORRIES PEOPLE THE MOST.
THAT WAS TOO DANGEROUS!
IF YOU'RE FOUND OUT BY YOUR COUNTRY OR BY THE KNIGHTS THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE TOO HORRIBLE TO IMAGINE!
I SPEND MOST OF MY TIME LIVING IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.
PLUS I HAVE TO RECEIVE AN OTTOMAN CITIZENSHIP AND AN ACHIEVEMENT TO HAVE A CHANCE AT MARRYING PRINCESS HATICE!

HOW COULD THE EMPEROR BESTOW HER ON YOU?
IF SHE BECOMES THE MOTHER OF A PRINCE,
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR CONSTANT INDECISIVENESS AND HESITATION THAT LADY HURREM IS ALREADY PREGNANT
EH?
IS IT REALLY LIKE THAT?
IBRAHIM

IBRAHIM
NO MATTER IF SHE'S A CONCUBINE OR A PRINCE'S MOTHER,
IF I CAN CAPTURE A CITY OR OBTAIN AN EQUAL ACHIEVEMENT, THAT WILL BE ENOUGH!
NO MATTER HER POSITION


The Ottoman army, who did not lack supplies, continuously barraged the city walls for days on end
A month later, twenty thousand troops joined them.

But... they still could not break in at all!

VIZIER AHMED,
A MONTH OF CONTINUOUS FIRE WITH NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO THE CITY WALL...
AH, TO ME THAT DOESN'T MATTER TOO MUCH.
SO, WHO DO YOU THINK THE NEXT COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WILL BE?
WE CAN'T CAPTURE THE CITY IF WE CONTINUE LIKE THIS AND THE SECOND VIZIER MUSTAFA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY LOSE HIS POSITION AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.
AND THE GRAND VIZIER IS ALREADY TOO OLD TO BE DISPATCHED TO THE FRONT LINES
AS FOR THE THIRD VIZIER, HE STAYED BEHIND TO MANAGE THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL
OF COURSE IT WILL BE YOU, THE FOURTH VIZIER, TO FILL IN THE GREAT POSITION!

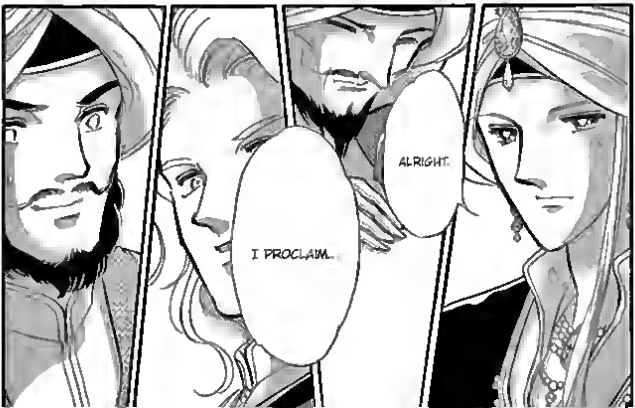
Another month passed
The Rhodes city still remained unconquered.
The Ottoman army casualties totalled 20000 people!

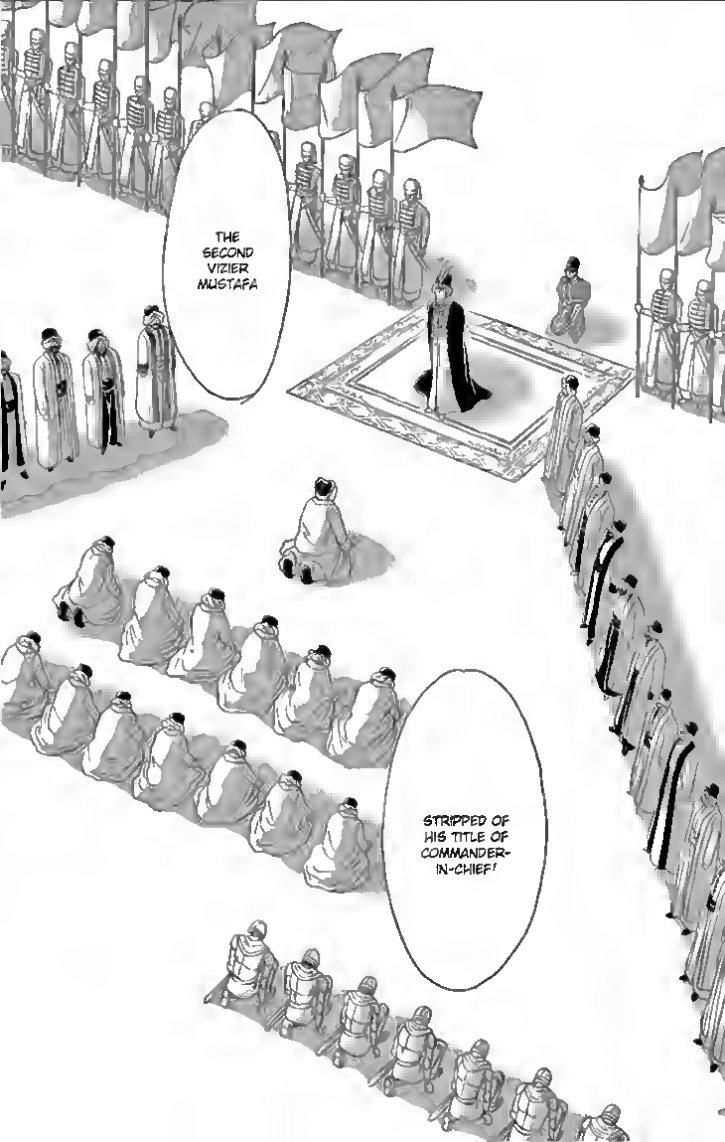
YEAH, EVERY DAY THOSE CANNONS CHANGE FIRING TACTICS.
THOSE OTTOMAN BASTARDS RAN WITH THEIR TAILS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS TODAY AS WELL!
OF COURSE!
IF THIS CONTINUES, WE WILL DEFINITELY WIN!
AS LONG AS THIS WALL EXISTS, WE WILL NEVER LOSE TO THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE!

THE OTTOMAN ARMY HAS LOST SO MANY OF THEIR SOLDIERS IN BATTLE WHILE ON OUR SIDE, ONLY A FEW HAVE BEEN CRUSHED TO DEATH BY CRUMBLING TOWERS
EXACTLY, THIS CITY WALL IS AMAZING!
WHEN WINTER COMES THE OCEAN WATER LEVEL WILL DROP THE OTTOMAN'S ATTACK WILL ALSO END
SO WE JUST HAVE TO HOLD FIRM UNTIL THEN AND SULEIMAN WILL DEFINITELY RETREAT!

ALMOST ALL OF THE VIZIERS FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE ARE HERE, BUT NOT ONE CAN BREAK THROUGH THE CITY WALL?
TWO MONTHS HAVE ALREADY PASSED AND YET, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PROGRESS THIS IS A LITTLE TOO BORING
THOUGH I AM NOT AN IMPATIENT MAN,

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MUSTAFA
DO YOU HAVE AN EXPLANATION?
YOUR MAJESTY THIS HUMBLE SERVANT DOES, DOES NOT.
I DESERVE TO DIE A THOUSAND DEATHS!


ALRIGHT.
I PROCLAIM...


THE SECOND VIZIER MUSTAFA
STRIPPED OF HIS TITLE OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF!

Up until now, this is the first time I've had such longing...

Longing to fight—
to be forgiven for wanting Lady Hurrem and needing achievements
NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I WANT TO FIGHT FOR ACHIEVEMENTS!
I originally planned to grow old by my Lord Suleiman's side and attend him

AND NOW
I WILL APPOINT THE NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
IT WILL BE...

NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
IBRAHIM PASHA!

MAY YOU NOT DISAPPOINT EXPECTATIONS AND SWIFTLY CAPTURE THE CITY!

FRIENDSHIP SCANS

IS STILL LOOKING FOR.

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->CHINESE
->KOREAN
->VIETNAMESE

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->CLEANERS
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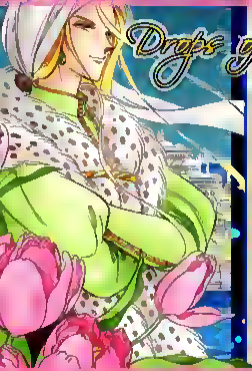

Drops of Dreams, The Golden Birdcage

CHAPTER 22

Credits:

Translator: Jasaraxxa
Proofreader: Astra
Cleaner: Blueengland
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Appoint Ibrahim as Commander-in-Chief?
Why didn't my lord appoint me, the fourth Vizier, instead?
YOUR MAJESTY, FORGIVE ME FOR SPEAKING BLUNTLY, BUT IBRAHIM IS ONLY A COURTIER.
TO SUDDENLY PROMOTE HIM TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IS UNPRECEDENTED...
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT I BELIEVE IBRAHIM POSSESSES THE CAPACITY TO BECOME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF!

IBRAHIM,
YOU ONLY NEED TO BREAK THROUGH THE ENEMIES' CITY WALL, AND I'LL REWARD YOU WITH WHATEVER YOU WANT!
Whatever reward I want...

IBRAHIM
DO YOU ACCEPT?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MAJESTY'S TRUST
I, IBRAHIM AM TRULY GRATEFUL!
BUT...

THE SEAT OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF...
I ASK YOU TO RESCIND THE PROMOTION!
YOU INTEND TO DISOBEY ME?
NEVER! SO I ASK YOU TO RESCIND THE PROMOTION.

PLEASE FORGIVE THIS LOWLY SERVANT.
I'M TRULY AFRAID TO GIVE ORDERS TO THE TROOPS.
IT'S BECAUSE I AM ONLY A SMALL COURTIER BY YOUR SIDE.
. SO IT'S LIKE THAT HUH
!!
THAT IS TO SAY, YOU'RE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE POSITION.
I UNDER -STAND.

THE NEW COMMANDER -IN-CHIEF,
SO, IBRAHIM WILL STAY BY MY SIDE
FOURTH VIZIER AHMED,
PLEASE COMMAND THE TROOPS TO BREAK THROUGH THE CITY WALL!
Yes! Understood, my lord!
I will spare no effort in completing the mission!

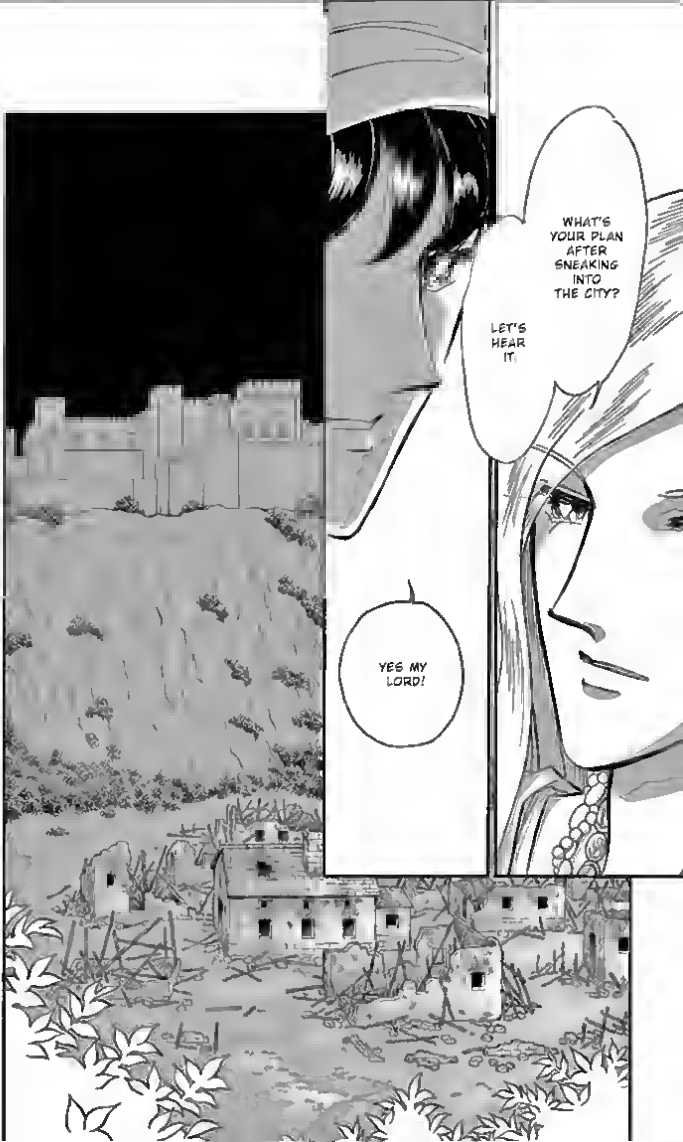
GRAND VIZIER FIRI MEHMED
WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE THAT? COULD IT BE YOU WANT TO PERSONALLY GO AND COMMAND THE TROOPS?
I HEARD ALL THAT MY LORD HAS ARRANGED
THIS OLD MAN IS SATISFIED TO SUPPORT FROM BEHIND
IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, TO GO AGAINST YOUR MAJESTY'S ORDER IS A HUGE DISRESPECT. BUT IBRAHIM DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG. A COURTIER CANNOT BECOME THE EMPIRE'S COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF!
SECOND VIZIER MUSTAFA,
CONSIDERING YOUR FAILURE TO BREAK THROUGH THE CITY WALLS,
WE WILL NOW DECIDE YOUR PUNISHMENT

YES...
YES, MY LORD...!
I HEARD THAT EGYPT'S GOVERNOR-GENERAL HAILU SUDDENLY DIED
YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY LEAVE THE FRONT LINES AND HELP ME GOVERN EGYPT!
EVERYONE ELSE GO BACK TO YOUR BATTLE STATIONS AND BRAVELY KILL THE ENEMY!

Yes, Your Majesty!
NOT ONLY TO AHMED,
BUT TO WHOEVER FIRST PRESENTS ME WITH THE SEVERED HEAD OF THE ENEMY I WILL GENEROUSLY GIVE WHATEVER HE DESIRES!

GRAND VIZIER,
THIS TIME I'VE REALLY DISAP-POINTED YOU
NOT AT ALL..
THE EMPEROR CLEARLY THOUGHT IT THROUGH
MUSTAFA, TO SPEAK OF IT, YOUR DEMOTION MAY NOT BE A REAL DEMOTION!
GO AND MAKE EGYPT THE EMPIRE'S FINANCIAL CENTER AS ITS GOVERNOR-GENERAL!
ALSO THAT AHMED,
TO PROMOTE THE FOURTH VIZIER TO THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MAKES LOGICAL SENSE.
HE USED TO BE A SOLDIER AND IS AN EXCELLENT MAN.
BUT HIS MANNER IS BOORISH, HIS BEHAVIOUR UNREASONABLE. HOPEFULLY HE CAN RISE TO THE POSITION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF!

IBRAHIM,
WHY DID YOU REFUSE TO BE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF?
THE EMPEROR APPOINTED YOU BECAUSE HE THOUGHT YOU COULD HANDLE THE POSITION.
I ALSO THINK YOU HAVE THAT POTEN-TIAL!
YOU'VE ALSO HEARD OF IT? ALVISE
THE ME RIGHT NOW DOESN'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE DIRECTING TROOPS.
BUT AS LONG AS THE EMPEROR THINKS YOU HAVE THE ABILITY
...!?


WHAT'S YOUR PLAN AFTER SNEAKING INTO THE CITY?
LET'S HEAR IT.
YES MY LORD!

PER-HAPS!
WAS IT TO LEAVE NO FOOD OR SHELTER FOR THE OTTOMAN ARMY?
IBRAHIM, BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU STEP!
THE NEARBY RESIDENTS HAVE ALL RELOCATED TO THE CITY.
THE KNIGHTS ORDERED FOR ALL THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES TO BE BURNT.
WE'RE HERE.
IT'S THIS OLD CHURCH.

THIS TUNNEL WAS DUG BY THE GREEK ISLAMIC PRIESTS.
THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE ATTACKED RHODES MANY TIMES BEFORE, THE TUNNEL WAS OFTEN USED FOR COMMU -NICATION IN THOSE TIMES
DOES THIS LEAD TO INSIDE THE CITY?
IT DOES
IT EXITS TO THE VENETIAN MARKET -PLACE
IT WAS LOCKED BEFORE AND WE DIS -COVERED IT, SO THE KNIGHTS DO NOT KNOW ABOUT IT...
SO IT WAS LIKE THAT!

IT'S A TENSE TIME, SO THE ISLAND'S RESIDENTS, NO MATTER WHO ARE ALL VERY WARY OF STRANGERS. TRY NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO THEM
BE CAREFUL, ISBRAHIM

I KNOW.
THANK YOU, ALVISE!

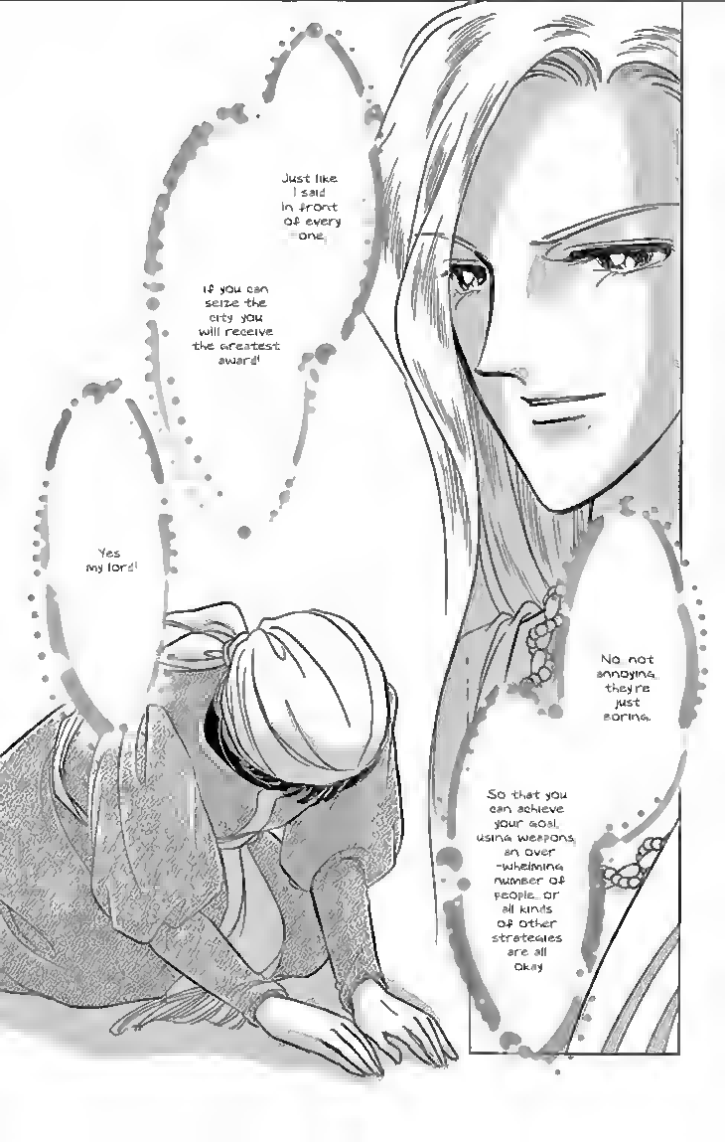
CAN I SIT HERE?
AH, SURE.
WINE AND WHAT THEY'RE HAVING

I HAD HEARD THAT THERE WAS PAYING WORK HERE SO I CAME
THERE IS! WE ALSO HEARD THIS PLACE WAS CALLING FOR PEOPLE, SO WE CAME.
OH, I'M FROM PALOUKIA
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
YOUR ACCENT ISN'T FROM AROUND HERE
AT LEAST A YEAR'S WORTH
AH APPARENTLY, THERE'S LOTS OF FOOD.
ISN'T THERE A SIEGE GOING ON? HOW CAN THERE BE SUCH ABUNDANT FOOD? IT'S REALLY SHOCKING.
Ibrahim
I SEE.
A YEAR'S WORTH...

If I may speak freely,
this city's wall is hard to damage even with cannons
Ibrahim
Your plan after sneaking into the city let's hear it
Yes, my lord!

Even if the city wall is destroyed that way, it will take too much time
The number of troop casualties will also be high.
If you let me infiltrate the city,
I will let Your Majesty end this war before winter!
That's okay the number of people here is like a speck of sand compared to how many people I have
I know, but
Before winter

ALL OTTOMAN GENERALS KNOW EVERY SOLDIER HAS A LANDLORD
AND THE TAX PERIOD IS USUALLY IN THE WINTER.
THUS, SOLDIERS PREFER TO BE BACK HOME DURING THE WINTER, MAKING SUMMER THE ONLY TIME THE OTTOMANS CAN BATTLE!
Didn't my lord always always find those sorts of things annoying?
You want infiltrate the city to learn something? Or perhaps to do something?


Just like I said in front of everyone
If you can seize the city you will receive the greatest award!
Yes my lord!
No, not annoying, they're just boring.
So that you can achieve your goal, using weapons, an overwhelming number of people, or all kinds of other strategies are all okay

HAVE YOU FOUND WORK?
I JUST ARRIVED HERE AND WAS ABOUT TO GO AND LOOK FOR SOME...
NOT YET...
THEN LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO A JOB FIXING THE CITY STRONG-HOLD
AFTER A FEW STRAIGHT DAYS OF BARRAGES THE MORE THE MERRIER WHEN FIXING THE STRONG-HOLD
THAT WOULD BE GREAT!
YOUR NAME?
ATEUSU
Cannons cannot break down this wall
...Now, what way is best?

How should this be done?

THIS IS REALLY UNBEA -RABLE
EVERYDAY SO MANY CANNONS ARE SHOT HERE. THE ENTIRE WALL IS BREAKING APART.
WITH SO FEW PEOPLE, HOW CAN WE FIX THIS?
AH, BECAUSE IT'S LIKE THAT. THEY'VE BEEN TRYING TO RECRUIT A CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIAN FROM ITALY
THAT IS, AN EXPERT IN FIXING WALLS!
HE'LL FIX ALL THE SPOTS DAMAGED BY THOSE OTTOMAN BASTARDS.
LOOK. IT'S THAT MAN OVER THERE.

EVERYONE CALLS HIM CHIEF GABRIELE TADINO.

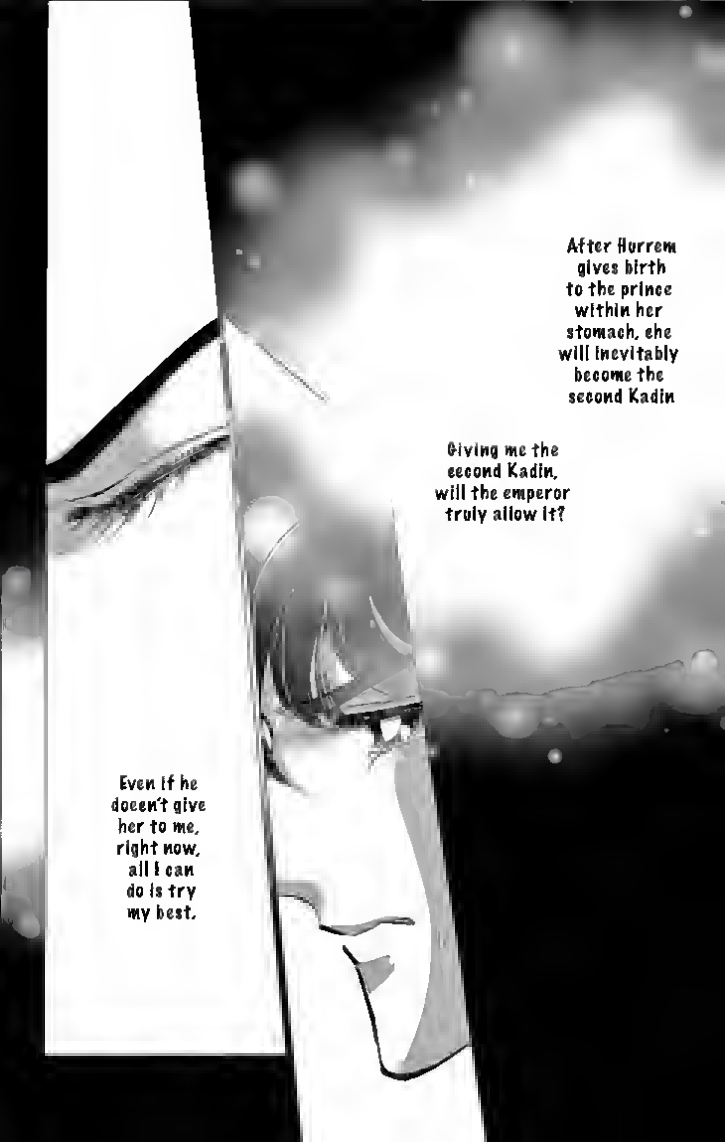
AS LONG AS HE'S HERE, THE WALL IS AS GOOD AS FIXED!
The city wall won't be broken by the cannons
Gabriele Tadino

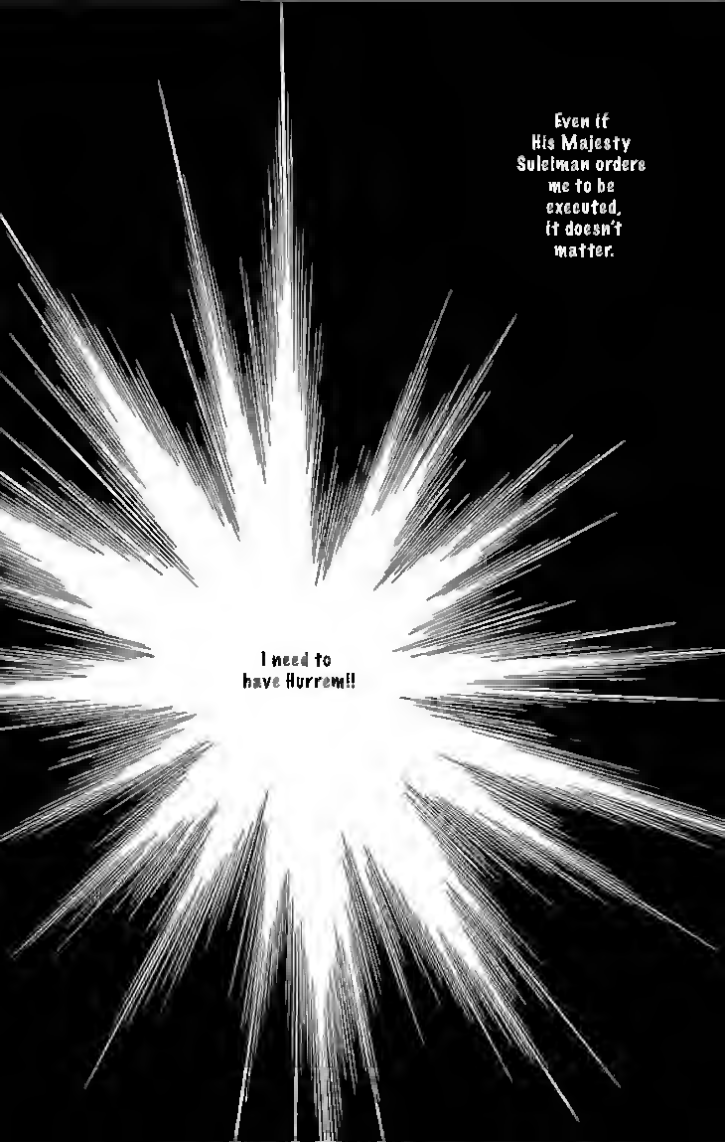
Breaking the city wall! The grand achievement!!

ATTACK!!
CHARGE WITHOUT HESITATION! THOSE WHO RETREAT WILL BE KILLED!!

Grand Vizier Piri Mehmed is too old
The second Vizier Mustafa has been demoted.
I only need to be successful, and I will have whatever I want!
So I MUST succeed!

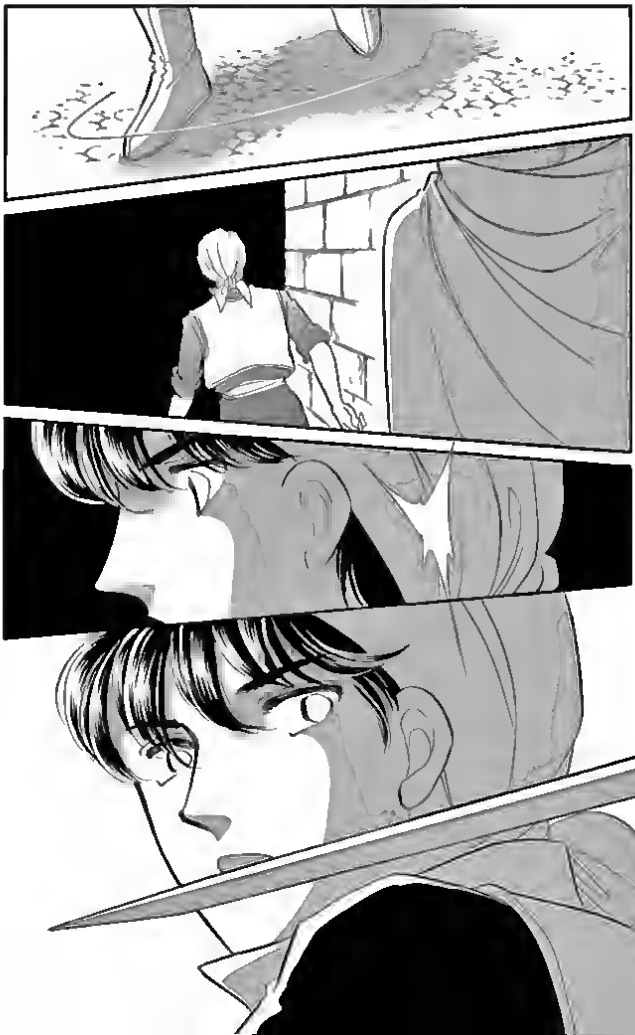
Give you the largest reward
His Majesty Suleiman wouldn't trick me.
So even if I ask for Hurrem, he should allow it.


After Hurrem gives birth to the prince within her stomach, she will inevitably become the second Kadin
Giving me the second Kadin, will the emperor truly allow it?
Even if he doesn't give her to me, right now, all I can do is try my best.


Even if
His Majesty
Suleiman orders
me to be
executed,
it doesn't
matter.
I need to
have Hurrem!!

WHERE DOES CHIEF TADINO LIVE?
YOU EVEN NEED TO ASK?
HE MUST BE LIVING IN THE KNIGHTS' HEAD -QUARTERS
RIGHT,
HE MUST BE LIVING WELL, EATING WELL, WITH GREAT PAY. I'M SO ENVIOUS.
HAHA.
BUT OF COURSE HE IS RHODES' GUARDIAN ANGEL!
BUT WE DEFINITELY CAN'T GO OVER THERE.
ORDINARY FOLKS AREN'T ALLOWED IN THE NORTH AREA WHERE THE KNIGHTS ARE.
IF YOU RECKLESSLY GET CLOSE TO IT YOU'LL BE KILLED!

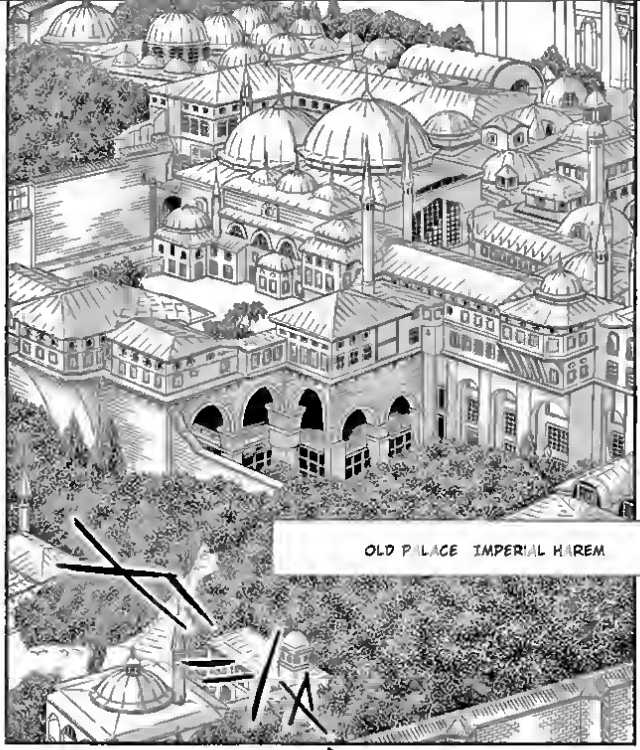
If I can steal the blueprints, I will be able to pinpoint the weak spots of the wall.
Since it's a construction technician. There must be blueprints of the wall's defences.
If the technician is killed, the city's defences will be significantly reduced!
...then,

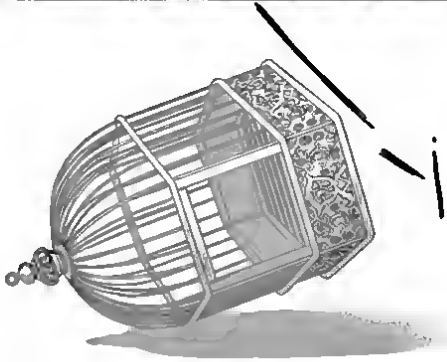


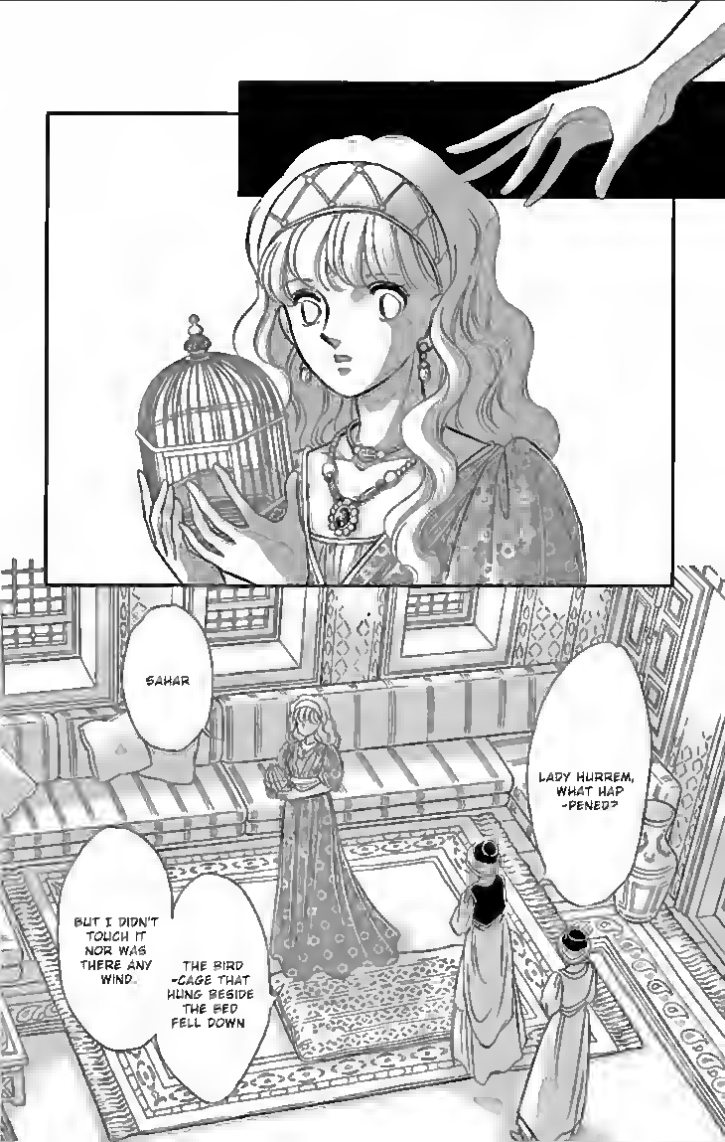
WHO ARE YOU?
ALL RHODES' CITIZENS KNOW THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA!

ARE YOU AN
OTTOMAN SPY?

OTTOMAN EMPIRE IMPERIAL CAPITAL ISTANBUL


OLD PALACE IMPERIAL HAREM




SAHAR
LADY HURREM, WHAT HAP -PENED?
THE BIRD -CAGE THAT HUNG BESIDE THE BED FELL DOWN
BUT I DIDN'T TOUCH IT NOR WAS THERE ANY WIND.

LORD IBRAHIM...
THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEMS RIGHT? HIS MAJESTY AND
THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINES AT RHODES WAS THAT IT HAD BEGUN.
...AH.
THE ONE LORD IBRAHIM GAVE YOU?
THE BIRD CAGE?

yume no sizuku
kin no torikago

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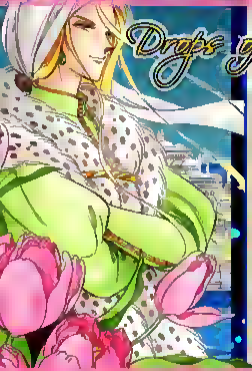

Drops of Dreams, The Golden Birdcage

CHAPTER 23

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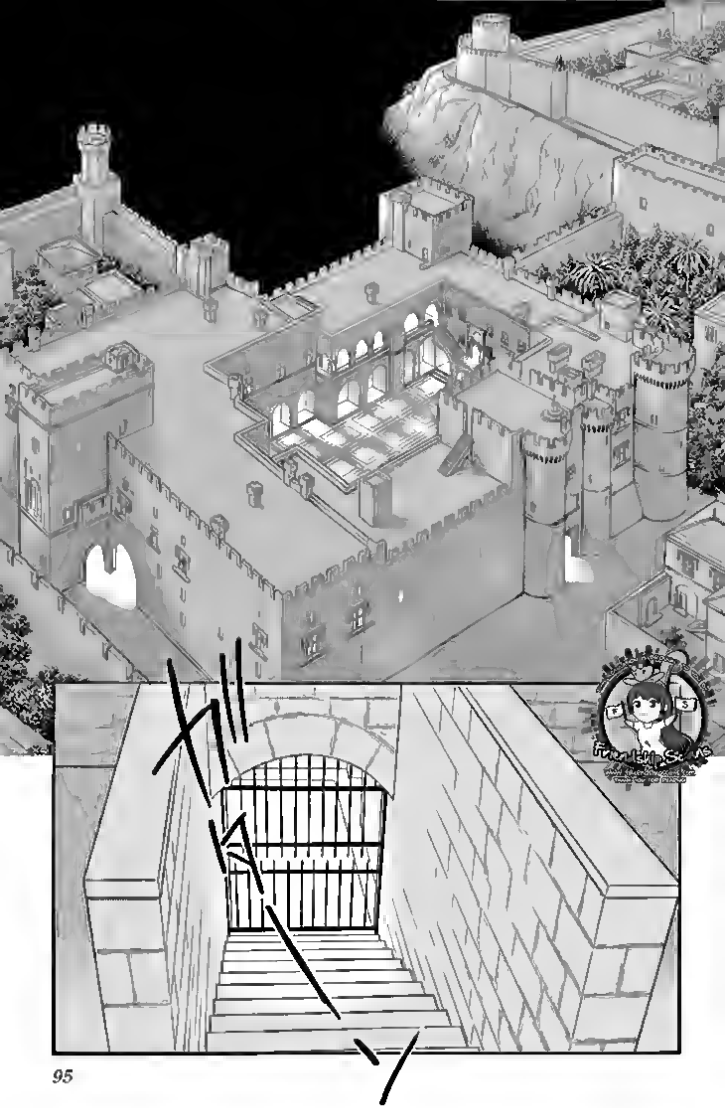
This Chapter is read from RIGHT to LEFT

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO OBTAIN THE HIGHEST REWARD!
WE MUST BE THE FIRST TO BREAK THE CITY WALLS
HIS MAJESTY SULEIMAN APPOINTED ME AS COMMANDER -IN-CHIEF
SO I MUST NOT FAIL HIS EXPEC -TATIONS!
IF I SUCCEED HERE, I COULD SURPASS THE GRAND VIZIER



EVEN THOUGH YOU LOOK LIKE A GREEK MAN, YOU ARE NOT A RESIDENT OF RHODES.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? WHY DID YOU TRESPASS HERE?
IS IT TO SPY FOR THE OTTO -MAN ARMY?
OTTOMAN DOES HAVE QUITE A FEW PEOPLE WHO HAVE BETRAYED US AND GOD!
IF YOU ARE OTTO -MAN'S SPY, YOUR SEVERED HEAD WILL HANG FROM THE CITY WALLS!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
I'M ON THIS ISLAND BECAUSE I HEARD THERE WAS WORK TO BE HAD HERE
THERE WERE RUMOURS SAYING THE KNIGHTS NEEDED MANY WORKERS, WHO KNEW THAT AFTER A LONG AND HARD JOURNEY TO GET HERE I WOULD BE ACCUSED OF SPYING!
SIR, ANY SORT OF WORK IS FINE WITH ME!
SHUT UP!
AS LONG AS I EARN A LITTLE MORE MONEY, NO MATTER HOW DANGEROUS IT IS, I'LL BE WILLING!

WE'LL HOLD YOU IN THE CELLS!
WE WON'T LET OUR GUARDS DOWN!
MUCH LESS RELEASE SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE!
MASTER FLORENCE
PARISOT DE VA -LETTE
IT'S GOOD TO BE CAUTIOUS, BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING EXCESSIVE?
I'VE HEARD YOU VE ALREADY CAPTURED MANY SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE

VALETTE
AFTER INTERRO -GATIONS, RELEASE THE CITIZENS THAT ARE INNOCENT!
RIGHT NOW, INCUR -RING THE ANGER OF THE CITIZENS IS VERY DANGER -OUS
STUB -BORNLY DETAINING TOO MANY PEOPLE WILL AROUSE EVERYONE'S DISLIKE.

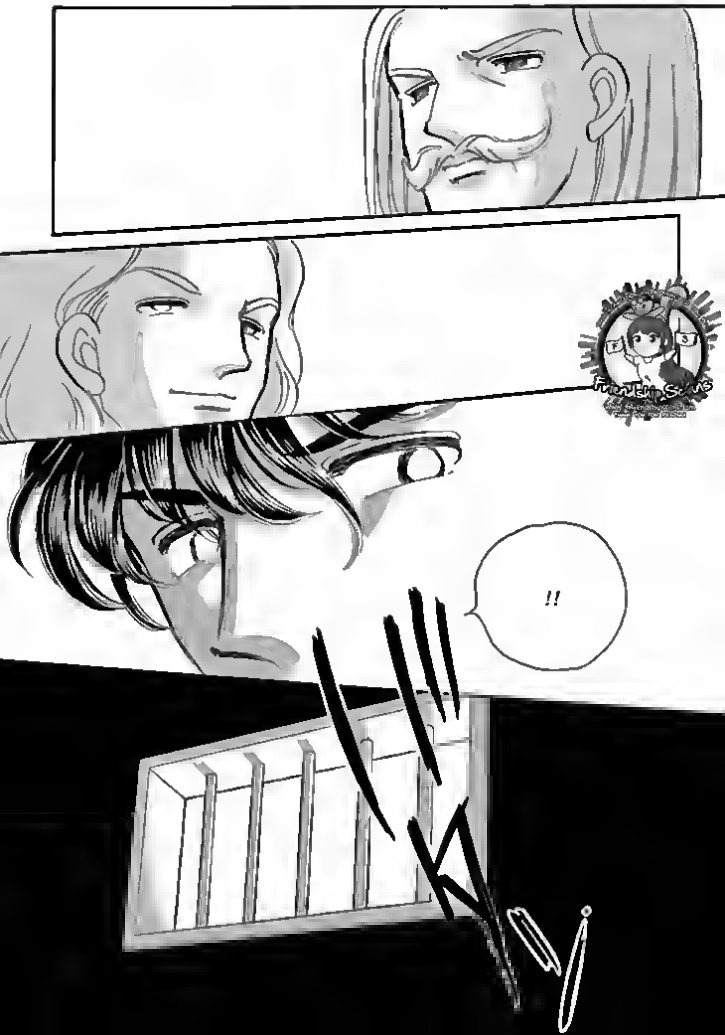
I KNOW ALL THAT
BUT IF THERE IS AN OTTOMAN SPY WITHIN OUR RANKS, THAT'S THE MOST DANGEROUS!
WITHIN OUR RANKS? WE'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF SUCH A THING!

We were suddenly brought here and imprisoned!
That's right!
We didn't do anything wrong!
!!!
Let us go!
Yeah! Ridicu -lous!
IN ORDER TO THREATEN OUR LIVES SUCCEED IN THEIR MISSION, AND FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY, THEY MUST HAVE SPIES CARELESSNESS IS COMPLETELY UNACCEP -TABLE!
!!
QUIET!
IN THE FACE OF A SIEGE BY THE OTTOMAN TROOPS, WHERE THEY WATCH US LIKE A HAWK,

WE KNIGHTS WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED BY THE OTTOMANS!
VALETTE
SURVIVAL IS MAN'S BASIC INSTINCT
IF THIS SIEGE CONTINUES, WE WILL LOSE SOONER OR LATER!
AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE, WE ARE SURROUNDED BY 10 TIMES THE NUMBER OF OTTOMAN TROOPS,

YOUR PERSONAL FEELINGS CANNOT HINDER THE KNIGHT'S MISSION!
THIS IS A DECISION MADE BY THE LEADERS DURING THEIR MEETING SPECIFICALLY TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE SIEGE BATTLE
MASTER FLORENCE
THIS CONVER -SATION IS TOO LATE!

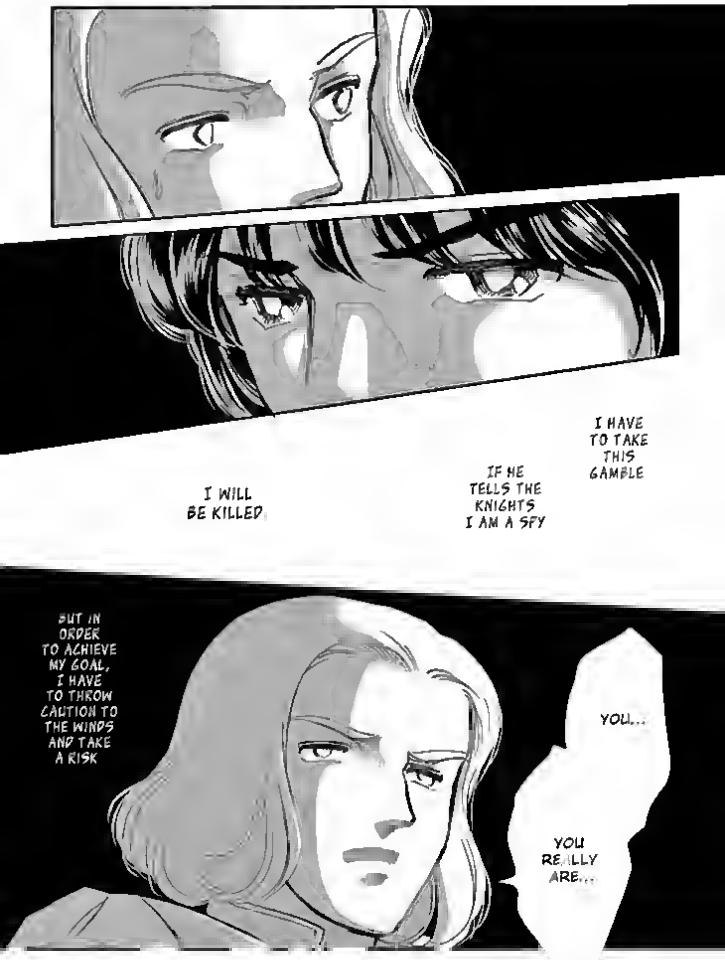
LOCK THIS MAN IN THE PRISON!



NEW -COMER.
WHERE WERE YOU CAP -TURED?
THANK YOU, I WAS LOOK -ING FOR WORK NEAR THE KNIGHT'S BASE WHEN I WAS SUDDENLY CAPTURED
YOU WENT NEAR THE KNIGHTS?
NO WON -DER YOU GOT CAUGHT, BUDDY, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW TO STAY AWAY FROM THEIR BASE!
YEAH, SUCH BAD LUCK!
YOU MEAN MASTER FLORENCE.
ALTHOUGH IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE KNIGHTS ARE VERY UNIFIED.
HE IS CURRENTLY CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE GRAND MASTER L'ISLE -ADAM.
SO HE IS AGAINST ANYTHING L'ISLE-ADAM DECIDES.
WOW.

TOTALLY, I REALLY WANT TO BE FREE
WHATEVER, LET'S GO TO SLEEP
THAT'S WHY HE DISPROVES OF VALETTE'S ACTIONS
IF HE COULD GET US OUT SOON, THAT WOULD BE SUCH A BLESSING!
!?
OR ARE YOU LYING IN ORDER TO MAKE SOME MONEY?
THE GRAND MASTER AND THE MASTER AREN'T TOGETHER?

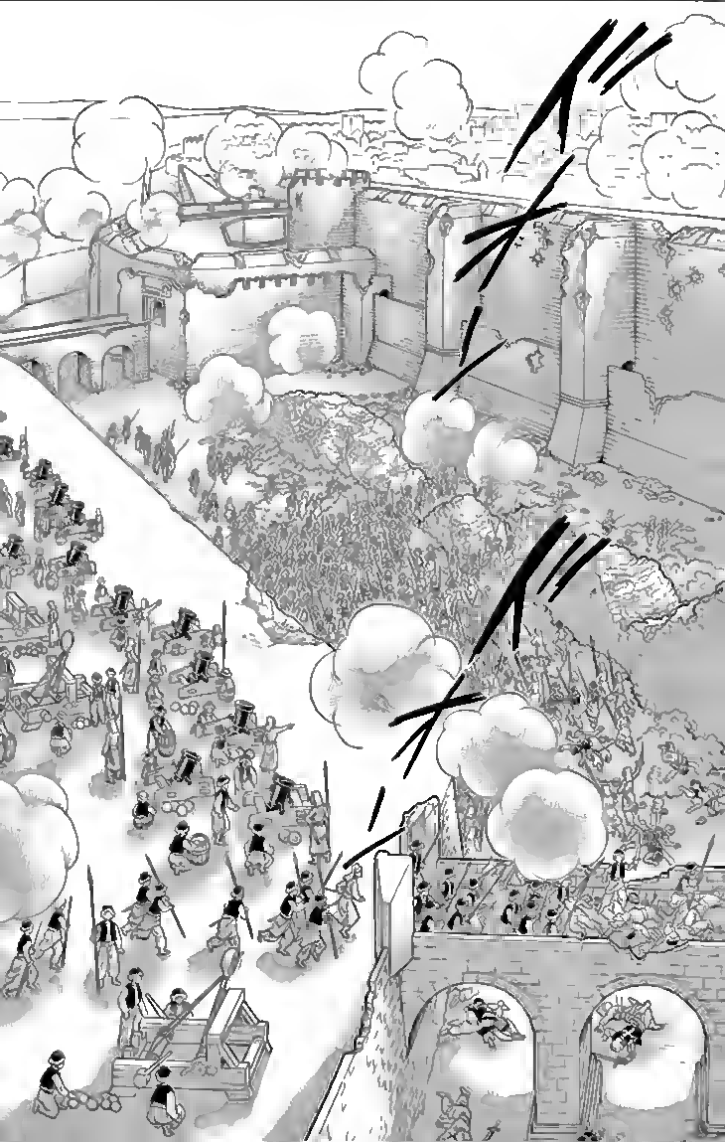
EH..
BECAUSE I DO HAVE A SORT OF CONNECTION WITH THE OTTOMANS
DO YOU KNOW THE MASTER?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING..?
I'M SERIOUS!
I REALLY NEED A COMMISSION
THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE!
THAT'S RIGHT I NEED TO SUCCEED NO MATTER WHAT!

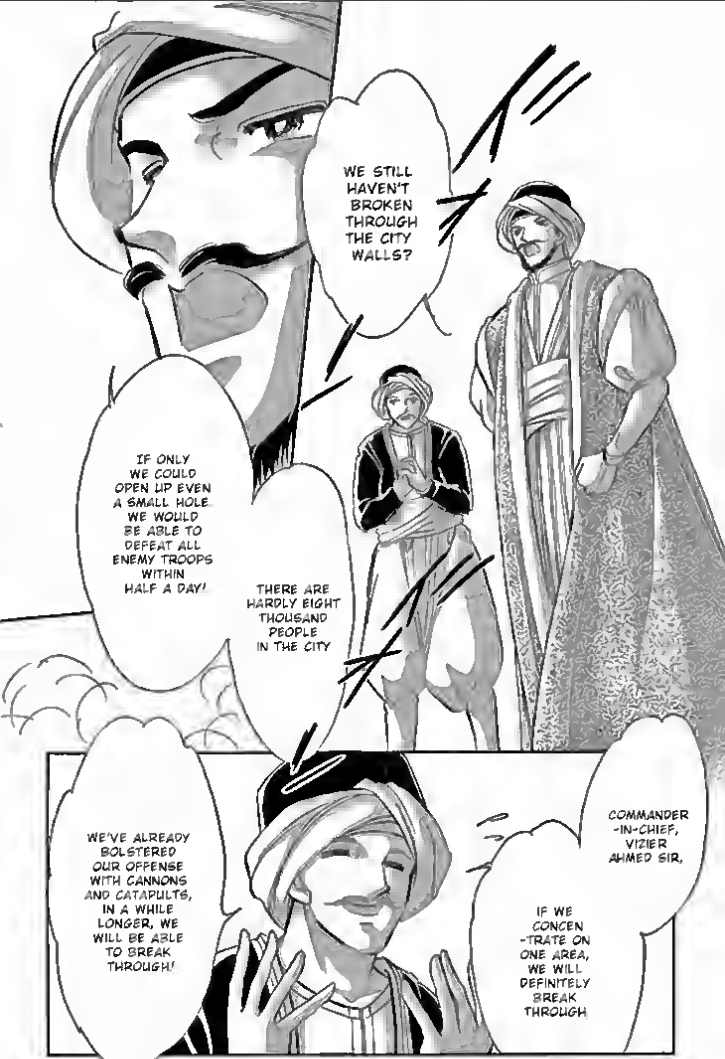

I HAVE TO TAKE THIS GAMBLE
IF HE TELLS THE KNIGHTS I AM A SPY
I WILL BE KILLED
BUT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE MY GOAL, I HAVE TO THROW CAUTION TO THE WINDS AND TAKE A RISK
YOU...
YOU REALLY ARE...

...
DO YOU HAVE CONNEC -TIONS TO THE OTTOMAN HIGHER -UPS?
FOR HURREM, I MUST FIGHT FOR ACHIEVEMENT!

FOR MY HEART'S DEEPEST DESIRE
I WILL NOT EVEN HESITATE TO BET WITH MY LIFE
MY THIRST FOR ACHIEVEMENT IS STRONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE'S

LADY
HURREM

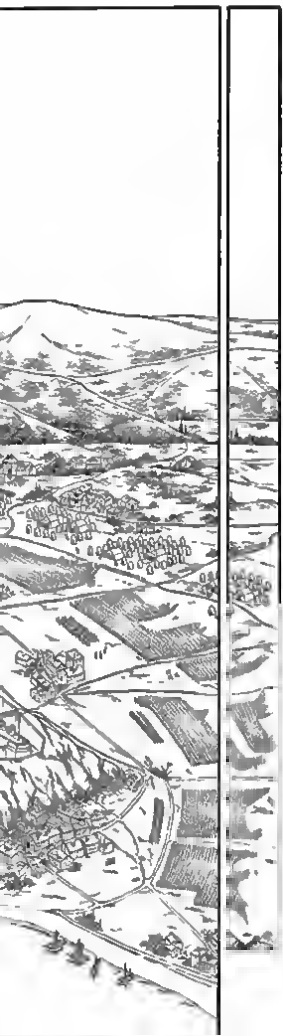



WE STILL HAVEN'T BROKEN THROUGH THE CITY WALLS?
IF ONLY WE COULD OPEN UP EVEN A SMALL HOLE... WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEAT ALL ENEMY TROOPS WITHIN HALF A DAY!
THERE ARE HARDLY EIGHT THOUSAND PEOPLE IN THE CITY
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, VIZIER AHMED SIR,
IF WE CONCEN-TRATE ON ONE AREA, WE WILL DEFINITELY BREAK THROUGH
WE'VE ALREADY BOLSTERED OUR OFFENSE WITH CANNONS AND CATAPULTS, IN A WHILE LONGER, WE WILL BE ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH!

⑥

I WILL FIRMLY HOLD ON TO THIS GREAT OPPOR -TUNITY!
IBRAHIM THE COUR -TIER IS ALSO STRIVING FOR THE ACHIEVE -MENT
BUT WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT
NN!
AT THAT TIME, PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE WORK OF US UNDER -LINGS!
FOR YOU SIR WE WILL WORK TO QUICKLY BREAK THE CITY WALL
YES SIR!

IN THIS SITUATION,
WHAT TRICKS ARE NEEDED TO BREAK INTO THE ENEMY BASE?
HMPH, WHAT -EVER
THOSE WHO TRY TO CLIMB UP THE LADDER THROUGH THE GRACE OF HIS MAJESTY ARE WORMS TO ME
ONLY THOSE WHO FIGHT AT THE FRONT LINES AND ERADICATE THE ENEMIES ARE OTTOMAN SOLDIERS!
HOW CAN YOU ACHIEVE ANYTHING WITH A WEAK BACK -BONE?



ATTACK!!!
FIRE THE CANNONS! BREAK DOWN THE CITY WALL!!!

SAY WHAT YOU WANT AND MAKE IT QUICK
VALETTE MAY FIND OUT IF YOU ARE AWAY FROM THE PRISON FOR TOO LONG.
JUST WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT DID YOU WANT WITH ME?
MY NAME IS MATHEUS
I AM FROM THE GREEK MAINLAND PALOUKIA. I WANT TO HELP YOU!

WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?
I CAN'T GIVE A GOOD REASON
BUT IT'S YOUR CHOICE WHETHER OR NOT TO TRUST ME!
I WANT TO LEAVE THIS CITY!
I DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE WASTING TIME, ONLY TO BE KILLED IN THE END!

MOST OF THE KNIGHTS, INCLUDING LIRA, WANT TO STAY HERE UNTIL THE CITY IS COM -PLETELY CON -QUERED
THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF THE KNIGHTS!
I DON'T REALLY ADMIRE THOSE KINDS OF HEROICS...
AND SO, YOU WANTED TO TALK TO AN OTTOMAN OFFICER OF HIGH RANK -ING
EXACTLY,
WE'VE COMMU -NICATED MANY TIMES TO THE OTTOMAN SOLDIERS OUTSIDE
BUT THEY WERE ALL REGULAR SOLDIERS
ARE YOU ABLE TO COMMU -NICATE TO HIGH RANKING OTTOMAN OFFICERS?

I DON'T KNOW THE HIGH RANKING OFFICERS WELL,
BUT I KNOW THE EMPEROR'S COURTIER...
His cour-tier?!
Amazing! Isn't that the Emperor's closest aide?
YOU CAN?
CAN YOU HELP ME COMMU-NICATE WITH HIM?
TELL ME YOUR COND!-TIONS

SURREN
-DER
THE CITY
AND OPEN
THE CITY
GATES
AND YOUR
LIFE WILL
DEFINITELY
BE SPARED.

THE SECOND VIZIER AHMED
WHAT'S YOUR REPORT? STILL HAVEN'T BROKEN THROUGH THE CITY WALLS?
WAS IT A MISTAKE PROMOTING YOU TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF?

I'M VERY SORRY!
PLEASE GIVE ME A FEW MORE DAYS AND THE WALLS WILL DEFINITELY FALL!
GRAND VIZIER PIRI MAHMED
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THE MOST VULNERABLE SECTION OF THE CITY WALL IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE SOUTH-WEST WALL WHERE AHMED IS SITUATED
BUT THAT MEANS IT'S ALSO THE SECTION WITH THE STRICTEST DEFENSE. SO IT WILL BE HARD TO BREAK THROUGH IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME
YOUR MAJESTY!
YOUR COURTIER IBRAHIM HAS RETURNED!

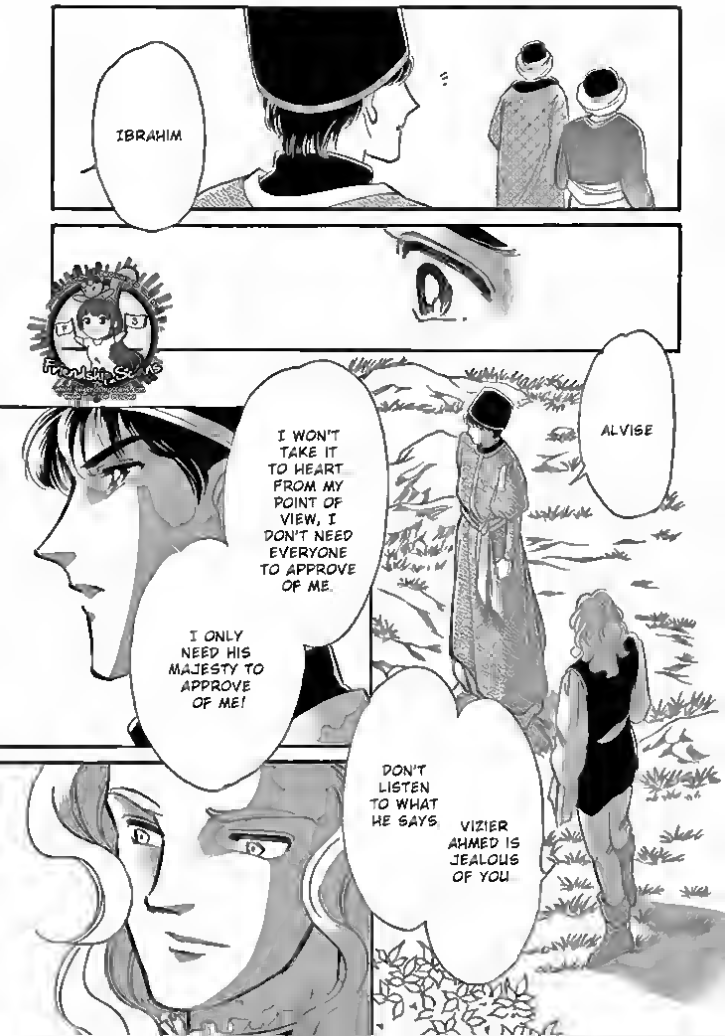
IBRAHIM
I HEARD YOU WENT TO INFILTRATE THE CITY INSTEAD OF ATTENDING ON HIS MAJESTY?
THAT'S RIGHT, GRAND VIZIER
MM
I TOLD HIM TO DO SO.
SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE MANAGED TO GATHER SOME GOOD INFORMATION
I DID, YOUR MAJESTY.
PLEASE GIVE ME A SURRENDER CORRES-PONDENCE TO GIVE TO THE KNIGHTS!
DURING MY INFILTRATION, I LEARNED THEY ARE WILLING TO SURRENDER!

Give you the correspondence?!
You dare to be my adversary, by no means will I accommodate you!
Only by hanging the severed head of the enemy commander on the city walls will we establish the Empire's power!
OK...
THIS PLAN ISN'T TOO BAD
I'M ALREADY TIRED OF OUR CURRENT IMPASSE
AS A RESULT, MY FATHER'S EMPIRE HAS EXPANDED A BIT ONCE AGAIN
CONTINUE IBRAHIM.

Ibrahim, you want the unrivaled Emperor of my Empire to just give up?
You're not loyal!
I am the Commander-in-Chief and I will definitely present a surrendered city to His Majesty!
IF YOUR MAJESTY JUST TAKES A STEP BACK AND FULFILLS THEIR CONDITIONS, THEY WILL REPAY US BY OPENING THE CITY AND SURREN-DERING!
SO IF WE AGREE TO THEIR CONDITIONS THEY WILL SURREN-DER!
ALSO, THE INNOCENT CITIZENS DON'T WANT TO DIE JUST BECAUSE THE KNIGHTS WANT THIS SIEGE BATTLE
THE ROOT OF THIS IS DEPUTY CHIEF FLORENCE HE WANTS TO NEGO-TIATE A CEASE FIRE WITH THE OTTOMANS
ALSO THE KNIGHTS CAN PERSEVERE IN THIS SIEGE BATTLE ONLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE CITIZENS.

I DON'T CARE WHAT METHOD IS USED
AS LONG AS RHODE ISLAND SURRENDERS, I WILL BE SATISFIED!
YOU TWO CAN EACH WORK TOWARDS THIS GOAL USING YOUR OWN METHODS!
YES!
YES!

COMMANDER -IN-CHIEF AHMED
SORRY IF I'M BEING OUT -SPOKEN,
BUT THERE IS A MAN CALLED CHIEF TADINO IN THE ENEMY RANKS
HE IS THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE IN REPAIRING THE WALL
IF YOU FOCUS THE CANNONS...
HMPH
WHAT SORT OF NONSENSE ARE YOU SPOUTING?
ONE SINGLE PERSON, NO MATTER HOW TOUGH HE IS, HOW CAN HE BE A MATCH FOR A GREAT OTTOMAN GENERAL?
.RIGHT


IBRAHIM
ALVISE
I WON'T TAKE IT TO HEART FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, I DON'T NEED EVERYONE TO APPROVE OF ME.
I ONLY NEED HIS MAJESTY TO APPROVE OF ME!
DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS
VIZIER AHMED IS JEALOUS OF YOU

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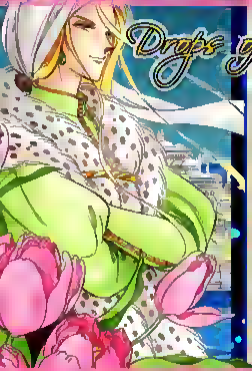

Drops of Dragon, The Golden Birdcage

CHAPTER 24

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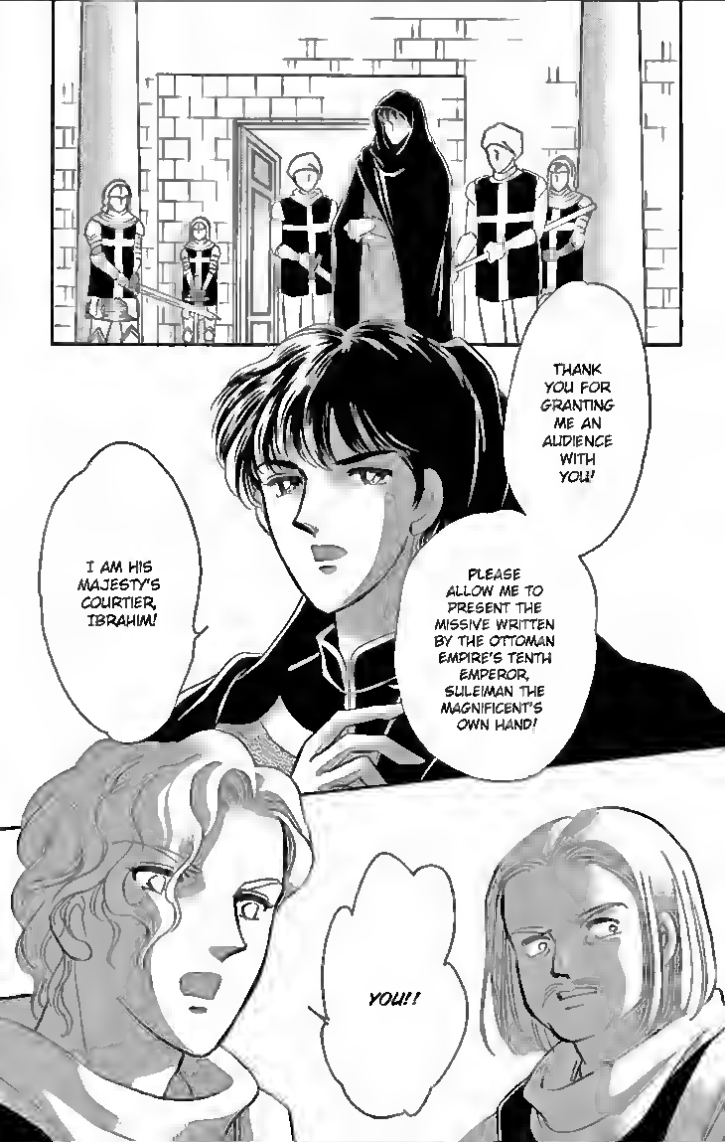
LOOK!
IS THAT THE OTTOMAN'S EMISSARY?
THAT'S THEIR EMPEROR'S FLAG, IT HAS TO BE AN EMISSARY FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPEROR!


THANK YOU FOR GRANTING ME AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU!
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO PRESENT THE MISSIVE WRITTEN BY THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE'S TENTH EMPEROR, SULEIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT'S OWN HAND!
I AM HIS MAJESTY'S COURTIER, IBRAHIM!
YOU!!

SO YOU REALLY WERE A SPY!!
IF YOU KILL ME HERE, WON'T THAT TARNISH THE KNIGHTS' REPUTATION?
LET ME REMIND YOU

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THANK YOU.
I SHALL NOW READ ALOUD HIS MAJESTY'S MISSIVE FOR THE GRAND MASTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT JOHN
"I HAVE THE FOLLOWING HOPES FROM THE ESTEEMED GROUP.
WITHIN THREE DAYS, LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS AND TRANSFER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ISLAND AND CITY TO ME. I WILL GUARANTEE THE LIVES OF ALL PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND
IF YOU REFUSE, THEN THE MAJORITY OF THE INNOCENT CIVILIANS ON THIS ISLAND WILL DIE ON THIS BATTLE-FIELD.
PLEASE REPLY WITH ALL HASTE." THAT IS THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THE MISSIVE

REALLY?
HAVE YOU HEARD?
OTTOMAN'S EMISSARY SAID THAT THEY WILL GUARANTEE THE LIVES OF ALL CIVILIANS ON THE ISLAND
WOULDN'T SURRENDERING MEAN BETRAYING OUR BELIEFS? THAT'S NOT GOOD
BUT IF THE SIEGE CONTINUES ON, WE WILL EVENTUALLY RUN OUT OF SUPPLIES
RATHER THAN WAITING UNTIL THAT LAST DAY WHEN WE LOSE THE BATTLE AND DIE. IT'S BETTER TO SURRENDER NOW AND LIVE.

STOP JOKING AROUND, SURRENDERING JUST BECAUSE YOU FEAR DEATH?! AND YOU STILL CALL YOURSELF A KNIGHT?!
B-BUT THE ORDINARY CITIZENS WON'T THINK ABOUT THAT.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD ABOUT WHAT THEY DID AT BELGRADE LAST YEAR?
THE HEADS OF ALL THE TROOPS WERE HUNG ON THE CITY WALL FOR DAYS!
OTTOMAN'S WAY OF LIFE IS LIKE NIGHT AND DAY COMPARED TO OURS!

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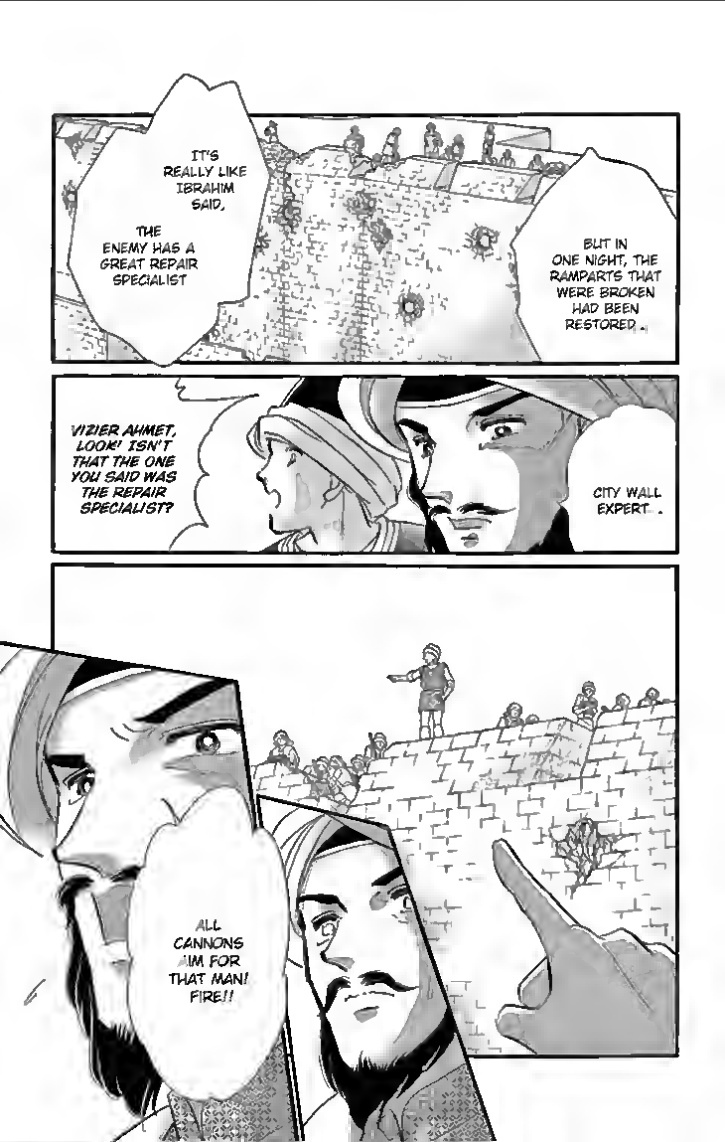
MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES MY LORD,
WE ATTACKED WITH ALL OUR POWER DURING THE DAY.
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU ALL?! HOW HAVE YOU NOT BROKEN THROUGH THE CITY WALL YET?


IT'S REALLY LIKE IBRAHIM SAID,
THE ENEMY HAS A GREAT REPAIR SPECIALIST
BUT IN ONE NIGHT, THE RAMPARTS THAT WERE BROKEN HAD BEEN RESTORED.
VIZIER AHMET, LOOK! ISN'T THAT THE ONE YOU SAID WAS THE REPAIR SPECIALIST?
CITY WALL EXPERT.
ALL CANNONS AIM FOR THAT MAN! FIRE!!

We got him!
HAHA, KILLING HIM WAS ENTIRELY MY IDEA.
IBRAHIM CERTAINLY NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THIS.
YES... YES! MY LORD IS SO WISE!

CHIEF TADINO!!!
CHIEF TADINO HAS BEEN KILLED!
THEN WHO WILL KNOW HOW TO FIX THE WALLS?!
THE WALL IS COLLAPSING. THE OTTOMAN SOLDIERS WILL COME STORMING HERE IN DROVES SOON... WE'RE DONE FOR!
WHAT? TADINO HAS BEEN INJURED?!

WITHOUT TADINO, THE WALL WON'T LAST VERY LONG.
YES,
THIS WAY EVEN MORE CITIZENS WILL WANT TO SURRENDER...
THATS...
BUT THE DOCTOR SAID THE INJURIES ARE TOO HEAVY. HE CAN'T GET UP FOR A FEW DAYS WHICH MEANS...
WELL HE'S IN A STABLE CONDITION NOW.
WHAT?!
OPEN THE CITY GATES!
SURRENDER IN FRONT OF THE OTTOMAN'S CANNONS! WE DON'T WANT TO DIE!
OPEN THE CITY GATES!!!

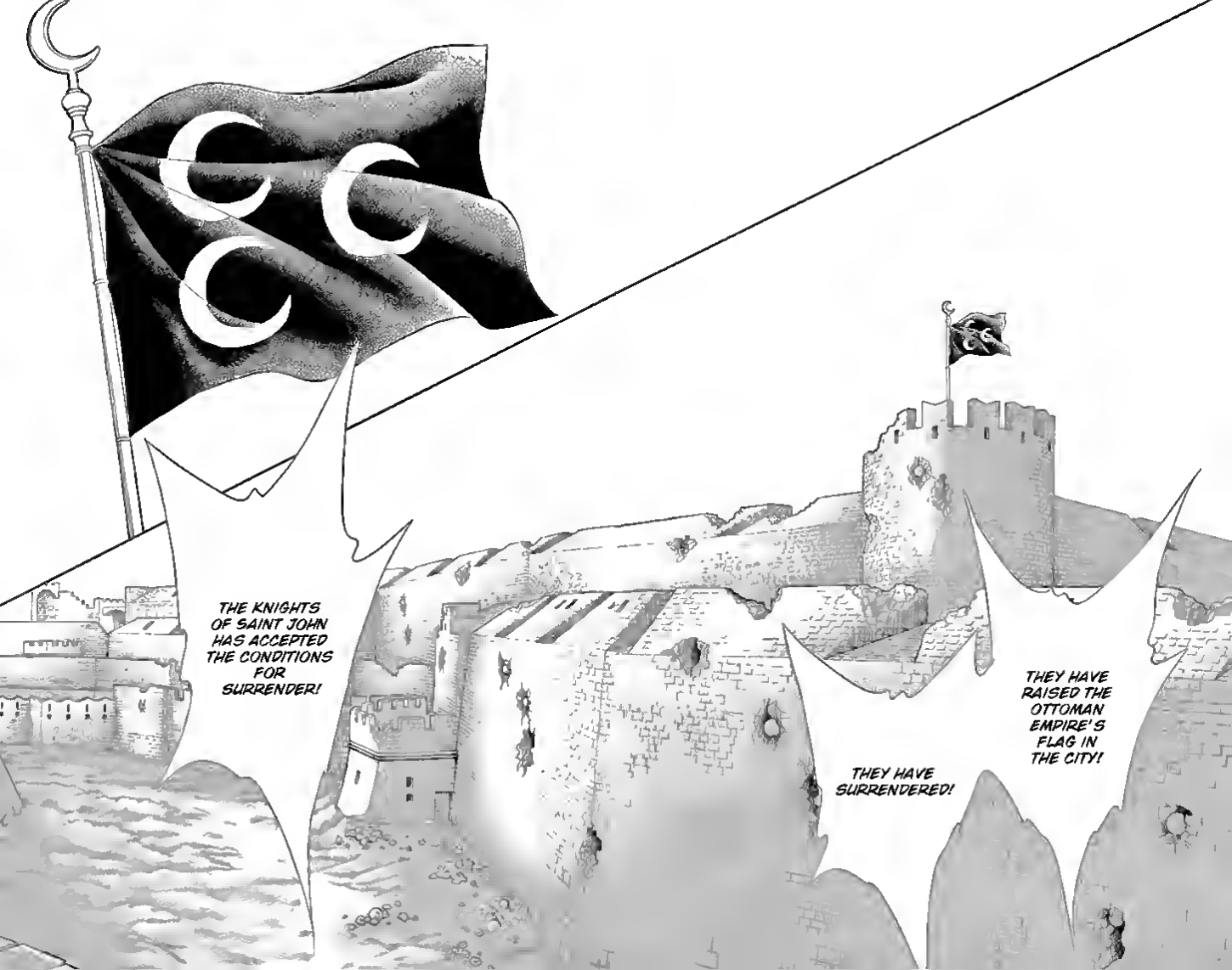
GRAND MASTER,
WHAT DO WE DO? WITHOUT THE PUBLIC'S SUPPORT, THERE'S NO WAY TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT!
WE HAVE ALREADY LOST 500 LIVES FROM THE KNIGHTS
MASTER FLORENCE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THAT IS OUR SACRED RELIC
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH THE TREASURE OF THE ORDER OF SAINT JOHN?

TRAITOR!
YOU ARE ALL ANTIQUES...
RIGHT NOW IT IS ALREADY PAST THE KNIGHT'S...
ERA...

PARISOT!
OPEN THE GATES!
YOU DON'T WANT EVERYONE TO BE KILLED, DO YOU?!

NEWS, YOUR MAJESTY!
WHAT IS IT?

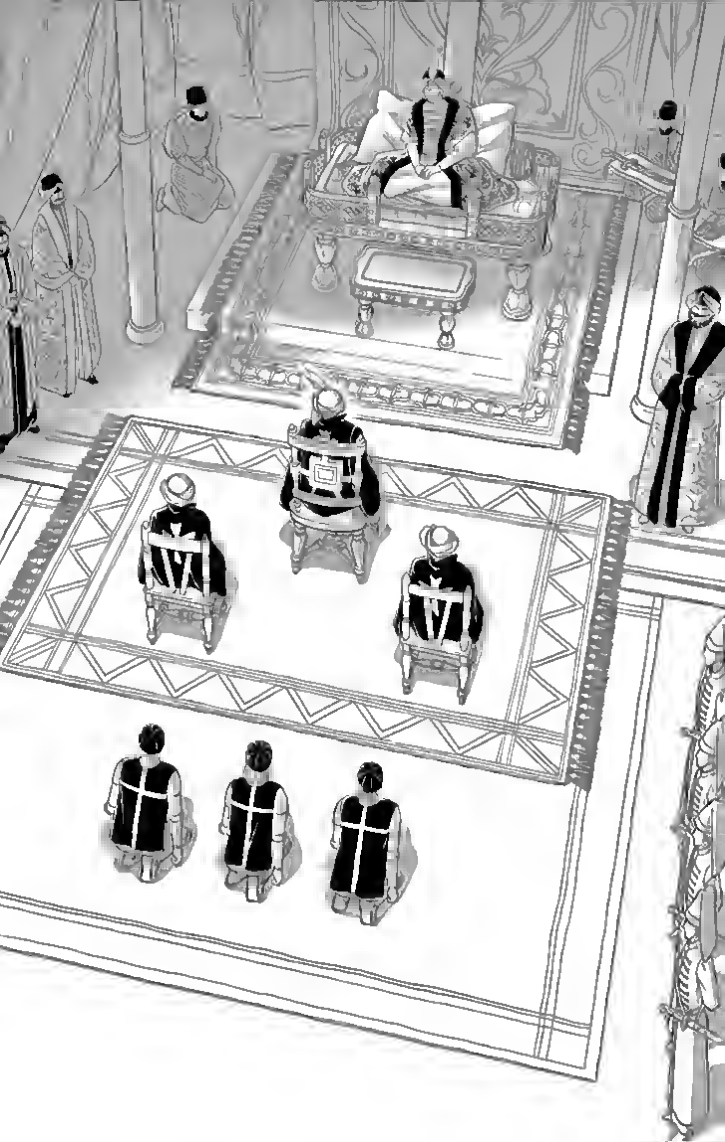

THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT JOHN HAS ACCEPTED THE CONDITIONS FOR SURRENDER!
THEY HAVE SURRENDERED!
THEY HAVE RAISED THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE'S FLAG IN THE CITY!

THEY FINALLY SURREN -DERED!
FINALLY, WE CAN GO BACK TO ISTANBUL!

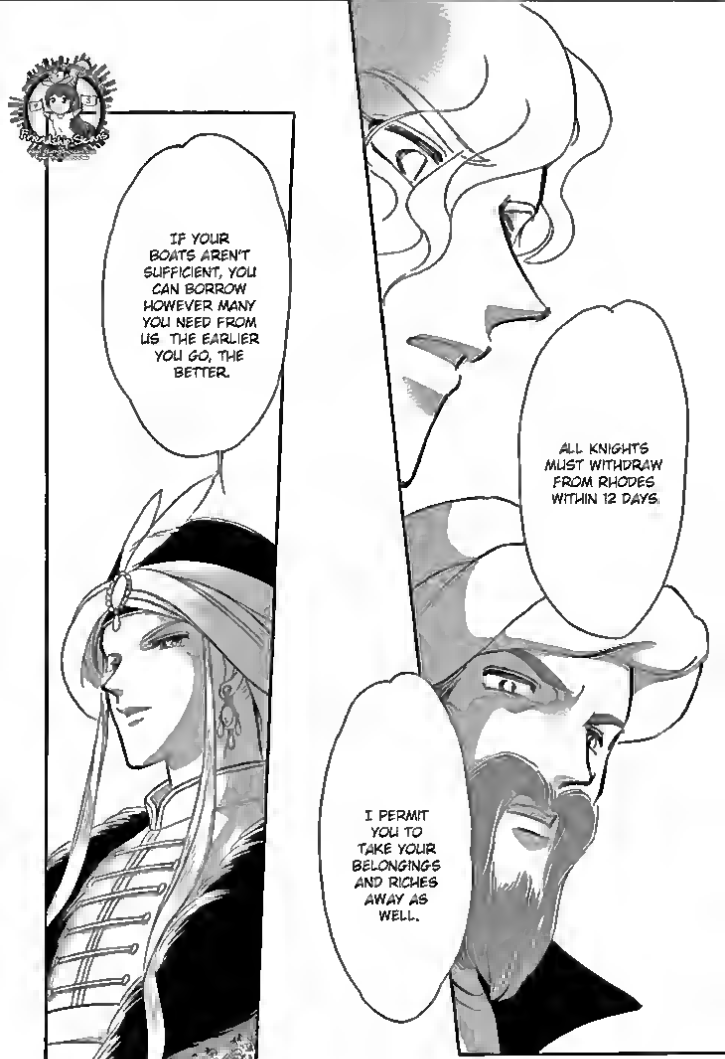
I DEFINITELY ACHIEVED THE HIGHEST MERIT
I WAS AT THE FRONT LINE FIGHTING A BLOODY BATTLE
NOT LIKE SOME PEOPLE WHO ONLY KNOW HOW TO DO SMALL PLAYS BEHIND ONE'S BACK WHICH IS COMPLETELY MEANING-LESS

GRAND MASTER L'ISLE -ADAM
PLEASE BRING US WITH YOU! TO BEG SULEIMAN FOR FORGIVE -NESS!
NO IF I GO ALONE,
I MAY BE ABLE TO CON- VINCE EMPEROR SULEIMAN THAT ONLY MY HEAD IS ENOUGH OF A PUNISH -MENT
GRAND -MASTER!
PLEASE LET ME COME WITH YOU!

AFTER THIS, I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK, PARISOT...
GRAND MASTER...

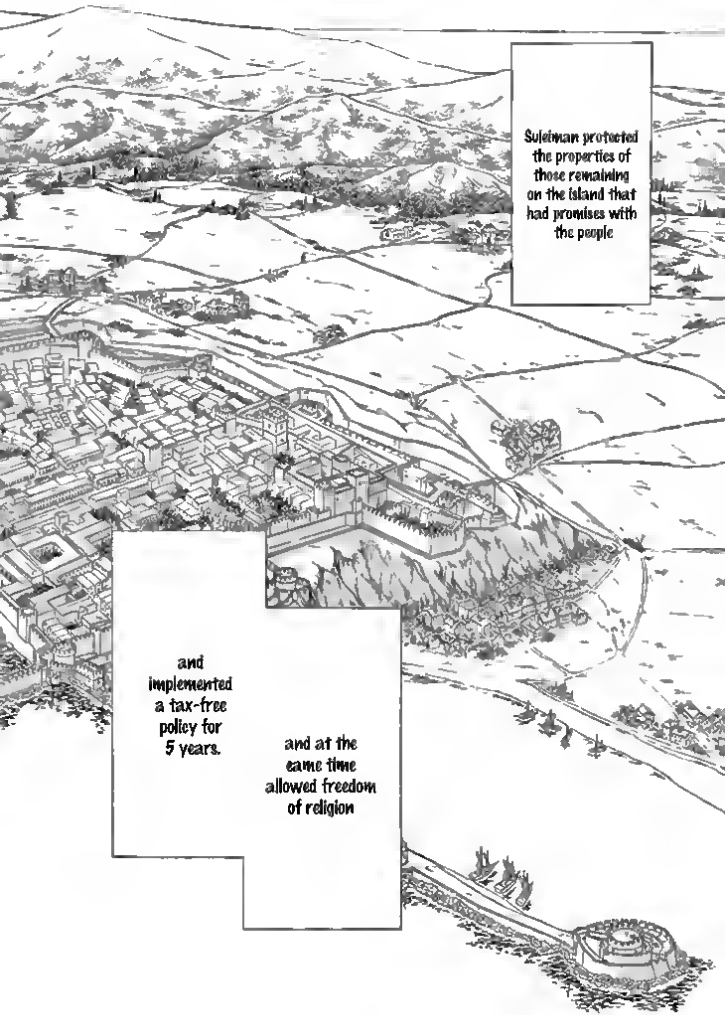


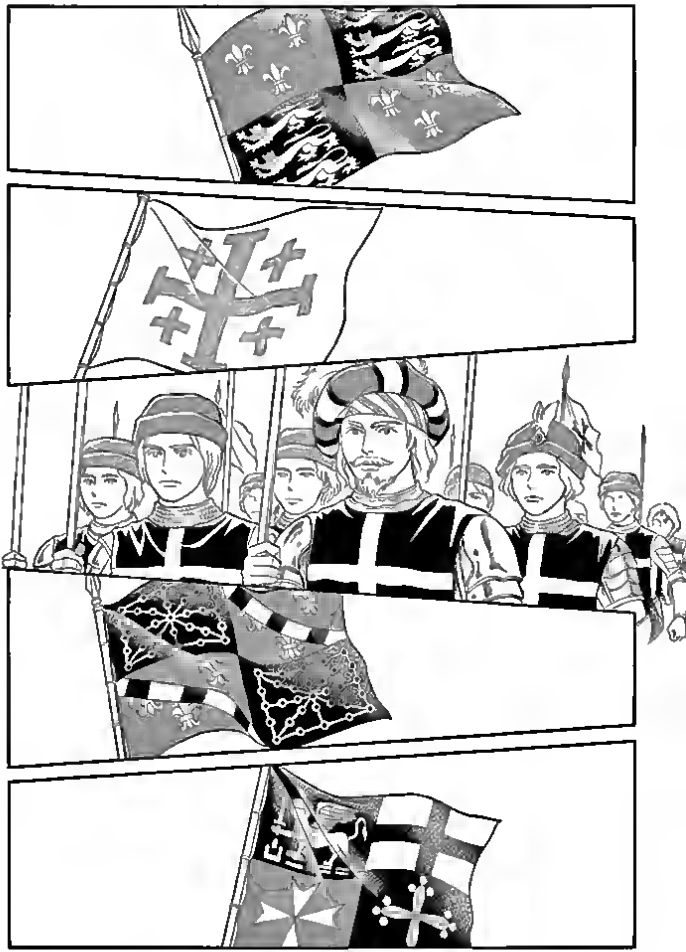
KNIGHTS OF SAINT JOHN'S
GRAND MASTER L'ISLE-ADAM AND ALL OTHER KNIGHTS,
FIRST OF ALL, I MUST COMMEND YOUR BRAVERY IN THIS FIGHT.
I HOPE YOU WILL CARRY OUT THE FOLLOWING TASKS..

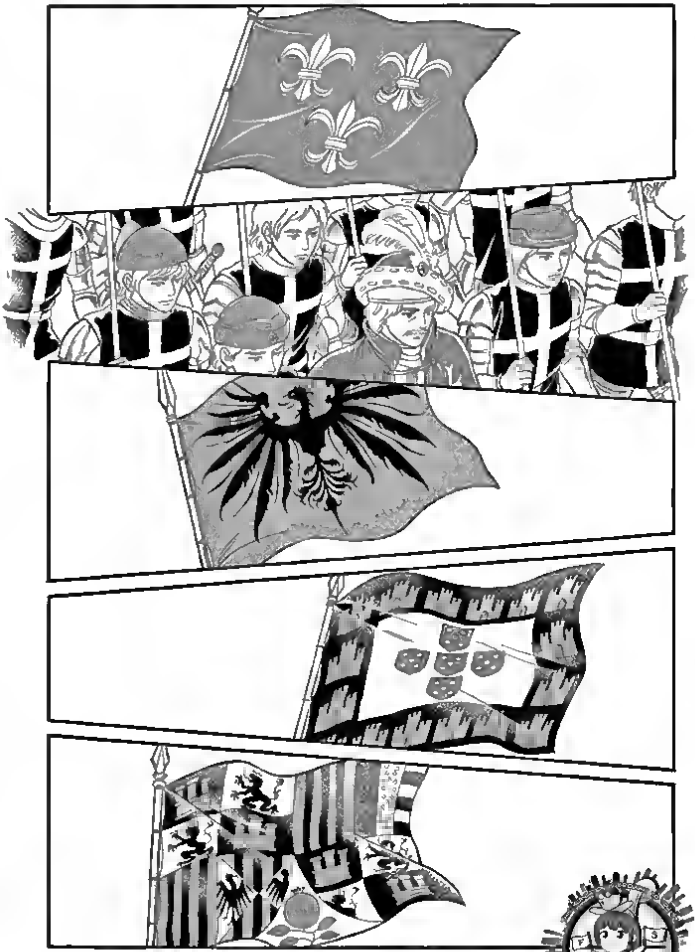

ALL KNIGHTS MUST WITHDRAW FROM RHODES WITHIN 12 DAYS.
I PERMIT YOU TO TAKE YOUR BELONGINGS AND RICHES AWAY AS WELL.
IF YOUR BOATS AREN'T SUFFICIENT, YOU CAN BORROW HOWEVER MANY YOU NEED FROM US. THE EARLIER YOU GO, THE BETTER.

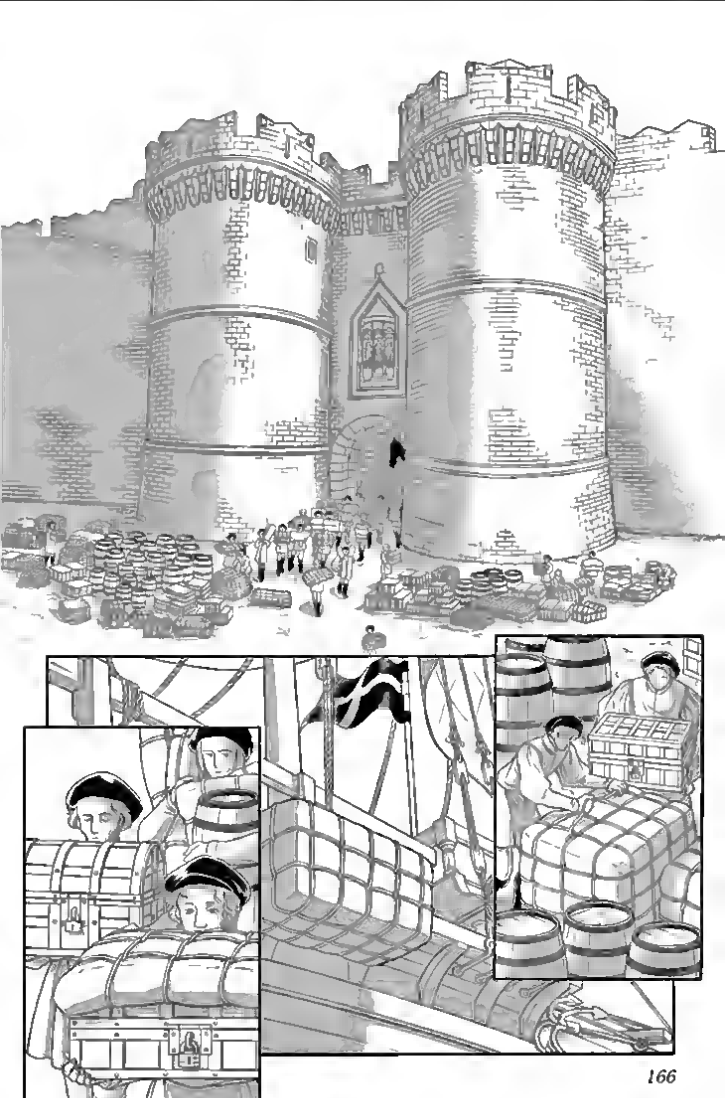
I HAVE ALREADY DECLARED THAT THOSE WHO SURRENDER WILL NOT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE!
I CAN ALSO LEAVE? IS THAT OKAY...?
THE KNIGHTS' VALUE CHIVALRY AND OLD-FASHIONED HEROISM
THOUGH I DON'T THINK MUCH OF IT,
I DON'T HATE IT EITHER.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO COMPLY AND STAY AT RHODES THAT'S OKAY TOO
AFTER 13 DAYS,
YOU WILL BE BEHEADED AS YOU WISH!


Suleiman protected the properties of those remaining on the island that had promises with the people
and implemented a tax-free policy for 5 years.
and at the same time allowed freedom of religion

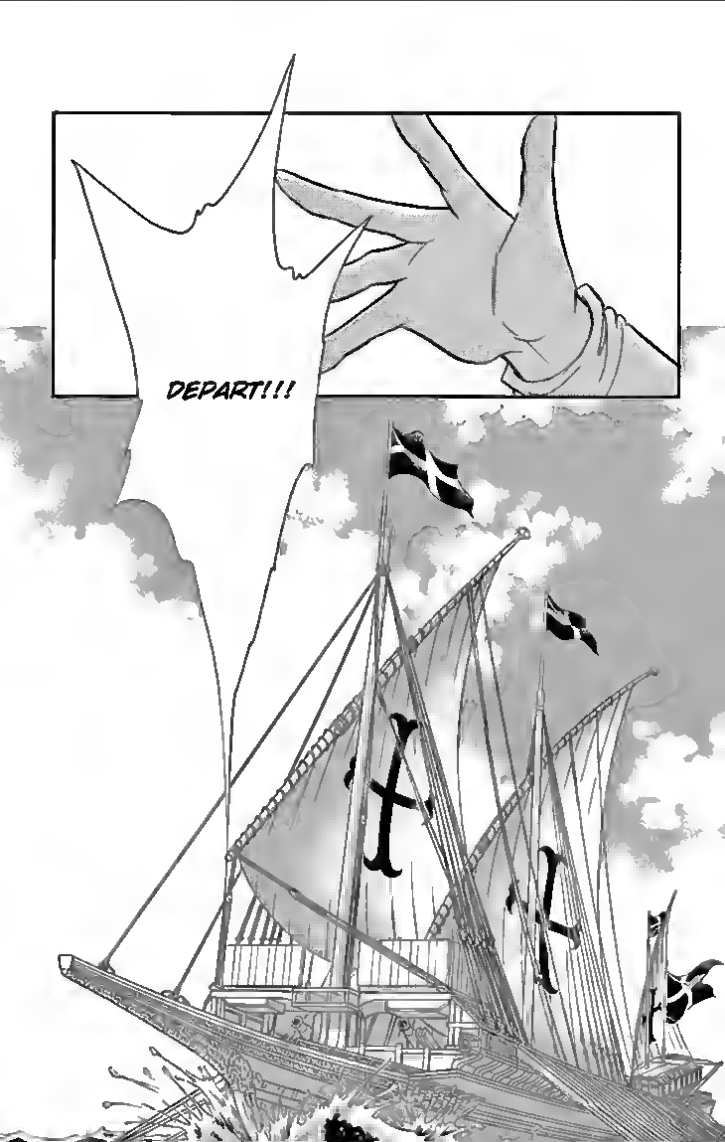






GRAND MASTER,
WHERE ARE WE GOING TO STAY FROM NOW ON?
THAT...
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF BEING ANYWHERE OTHER THAN RHODES.
ANYWHERE IS FINE.
PARISOT

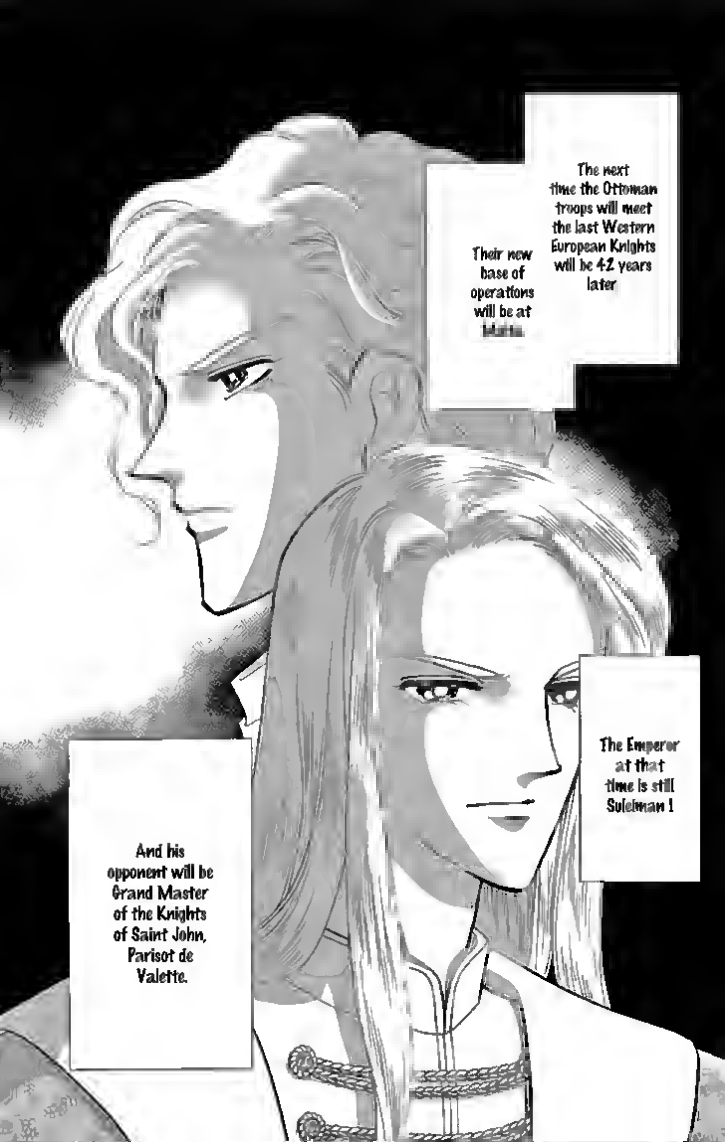
ANYPLACE THAT FLIES OUR FLAG IS THE HOME OF THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT JOHN!
AS LONG AS THERE IS SUCH A PLACE,
WE WILL ONE DAY MAKE A COMEBACK!
WELL SAID!
THEN, LET'S SET SAIL!


DEPART!!!

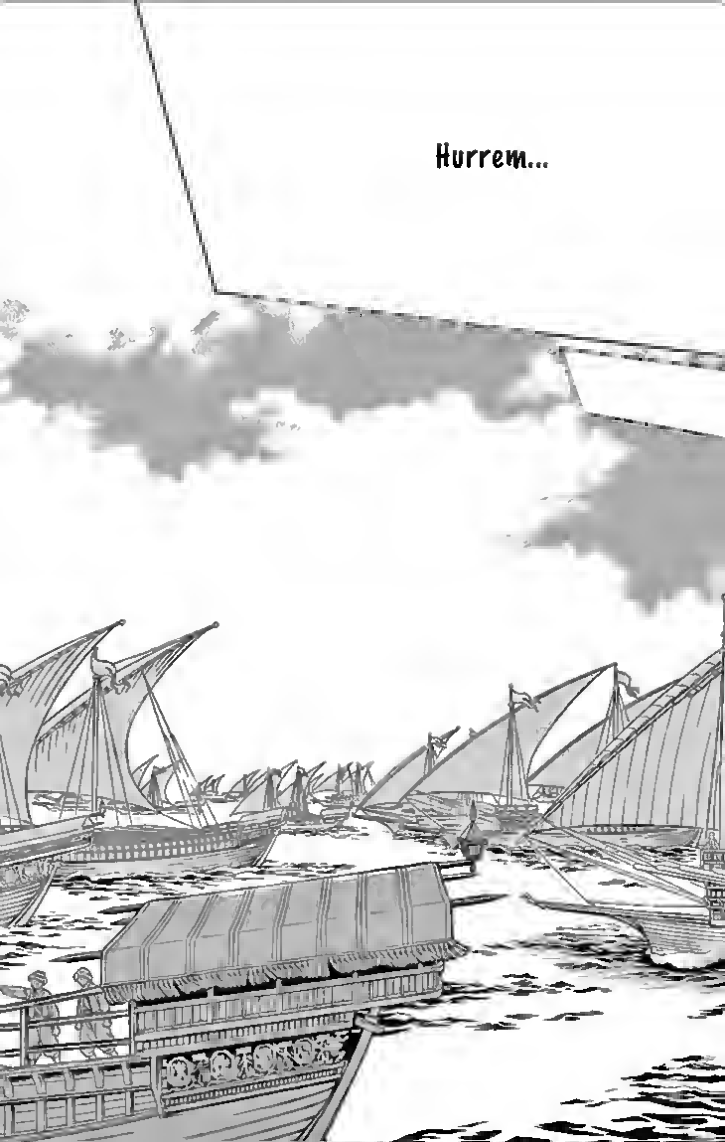
THE BOATS HAVE ALREADY LEFT RIGHT?
YES YOUR MA -JESTY.
THEY ARE ABOUT TO SAIL PAST THE MOUTH OF THE HARBOUR.
SOUND THE CANNONS FOR THE DEPARTING KNIGHTS OF SAINT JOHN!!
YES!
...THEN LET'S SEND THEM OFF.

January
1st, 1523
As the
Ottoman soldiers
saluted with
the sound of
cannons,

The Virgin Mary, under the command of the Knights of Saint John, left the Rhodes stronghold after 200 years.


The next time the Ottoman troops will meet the last Western European Knights will be 42 years later
Their new base of operations will be at Malta.
The Emperor at that time is still Suleiman I
And his opponent will be Grand Master of the Knights of Saint John, Parisot de Valette.

ALRIGHT, IT'S TIME FOR US TO RETURN HOME TO ISTANBUL AS WELL
REVIEW INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVE -MENTS..
AYASE WILL STAY BEHIND TO GOVERN RHODES
THE REST WILL RETURN AND THEN INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS WILL BE REVIEWED


Hurrem...

January
29th, 1523
Emperor
Suleiman returns
triumphantly to
the imperial
capital.

Topkapi Palace

YOUR MAJESTY, I'M SO GRATEFUL THAT YOU'VE SAFELY RETURNED.
WELCOME HOME, ROYAL BROTHER!
CONGRATULATIONS ON THE VICTORY!
MOTHER, HATICE,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GREETING
BUT I DIDN'T PURPOSELY COME HERE IN A WHILE I'LL BE GOING TO THE BACK PALACE.

I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING,
ALTHOUGH I BETTER WHISPER THIS TO YOU...
ROYAL BROTHER
SOME STRANGE EVENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN THE BACK PALACE
FORGIVE ME FOR SPEAKING OUT OF TURN, STRANGE EVENTS..
DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH LADY HURREM AND THE PRINCE?

BAS KADIN GULBAHAR'S AND HURREM'S AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN REVERSED!

INSIDE THE HAREM
HURREM IS DOING FINE, AND THE PRINCE IS WELL-BEHAVED
BUT, THIS COULD BE WHY ALL THESE STRANGE THINGS ARE HAPPENING

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